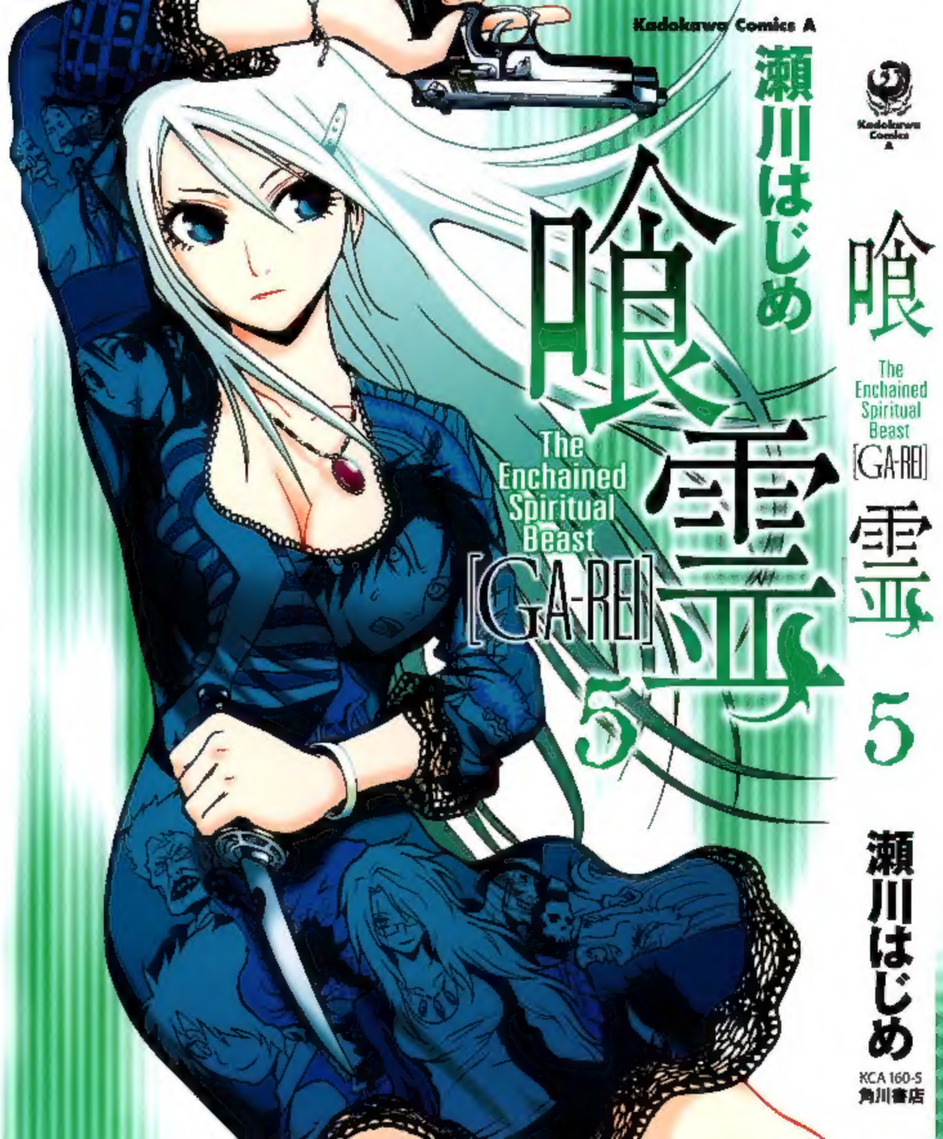
Hajime Segawa

Winter has come. I like the white sky of Winter (it's just an ordinary foggy sky). Night is good during snowy days.

I can see the roads shining dimly. The car also slips a lot, which is dangerous. As X-mas approaches, the city also becomes prettier.

It makes me want to go to a snowy mountain. It makes me want to go to a lodge and watch the snow while sipping coffee.

I've suddenly become sleepy. It's about midnight, so I'll sleep. I'll sleep until Santa comes (which is dangerous).



Kadokawa Comics A

喰霊 The Enchained Spiritual Beast [GA-REI] 零 5

瀬川はじめ

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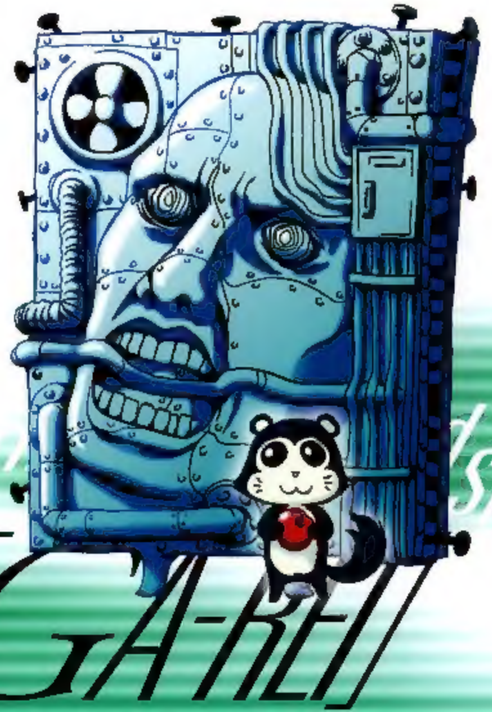
As the all-out war between the Countermeasures Department and the Jugondou progresses, an internal division within the Jugondou breaks out. This was brought about by Shizuru's older sister, Setsuna, whose whereabouts were unknown, and the mysterious boy Mitogawa.

Betrayed by her allies, Shizuru's Sesshouseki is stolen, and takes refuge within the Countermeasures Department. Kensuke and Kagura are tossed about by this hectic turn of events, but Setsuna's evil influence reaches even further, into the Countermeasures Department itself...

Volume five of non-stop, after-school exorcism action!



Spiritual Beast

[GA-REI]

Enchained Spiritual Beast

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en·tro·py

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STARTING TONIGHT, I WILL BE THE HEAD OF THE JUUGONDOU.
I WILL ALSO BE TAKING OVER THE KYUUBI PLAN.
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
sfx: Rumble Rumble

喰霊
5
The Enchained Spiritual Beast [GA-REI]
Presented by HAJIME SEGAWA 瀬川はじめ

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Summer Vacation of Memories
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喰霊
The Enchained Spiritual Beast
[GA-REI]
5

CONTENTS

Book Design by Veia

THEY'VE GOT GUTS, PUTTING IT SMACK-DAB IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY...
INCLUDING THE HELIPORT, THE TOP THREE FLOORS...
...BELONG TO THE EMBASSY OF ROMATRIA, A SMALL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY.
EMBASSY?
SO THAT BUILDING IS THE JUUGONDOU'S HIDEOUT...
Productive Emotion

Chapter 18

Summer Vacation of Memories
Summer Vacation of Betrayal

IT'S EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY...
EVEN THE COUNTERMEASURES DEPARTMENT CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
TO BE BLUNT, IT'S AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.
sfx: Rumble Rumble

...
IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT WAIT FOR THEM TO MOVE.

IT SEEMS THEY HAVE QUITE A CONNECTION...
...WITH THE ROMATRIA MILITARY REGIME.

KILL YOU
These last few months have been fun...
KEN-CHAN,
IF WE HAVE TO FIGHT SHIZURU FOR REAL...

THIS MAY SOUND NAIVE, BUT...
...WE MUST NOT FIGHT HER FOR REAL.
I DON'T GET IT.

sfx: Rumble Rumble

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL KILL ME?
YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
...
UGH
BOOM
PANT
EVEN THOUGH I'VE ALWAYS WAITED FOR YOU...
...EVER SINCE YOU DISAPPEARED...
EVEN THOUGH I'VE FINALLY MET YOU AGAIN,

!
...WITH THE POWER TO KILL THAT GEEZER AND COMMAND THE JUUGONDOU
I'VE COME BACK ..
SHINE
RUSTLE
YOU WERE NEXT IN LINE... SO WHY DID YOU... FATHER...
WHY..
The Sesshou-seki...

WHA-
BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO HAVE ME KILLED,
THAT FATHER OF YOURS.
IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF MY TALENT.
IT'S NORMAL FOR FAINT-HEARTED OLD MEN WITH POLITICAL POWER.

IN THE END,
TO THAT OLD MAN,
YOU AND I ARE
JUST PAWNS.

HE NEVER
INTENDED TO
YIELD HIS SEAT
AS THE HEAD OF
THE FAMILY TO
ANYONE.

IT'S NOT
A LIE
BA-DUMP
YOU'RE
LYING.

IT'S EAT OR BE EATEN N THIS WORLD.
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT, RIGHT?
sfx Oooo
sfx Boom Boom
SWOO

APPEAR
!!
UGH...
THESE EXORCISM SHURIKEN SEAL A SPIRIT BODY'S MOVEMENT.
IT'S FUTILE.
CRACKLE
MITO-GAWA!

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO ORGANIZED THIS FARCE?!
YOU GAVE MY SISTER THE SESSHOUSEKI?

CLATTER
THAT'S A FALSE ACCUSATION.

IT'S TRUE THAT THE SESSHOUSEKI WAS RETRIEVED FROM YOMI,
BUT, I'M JUST LIKE THE OTHERS.
WE'RE MERELY OBEYING THE STRONG ONE.

sfx: Clang

I lost everything

In just one instant,

Amazing

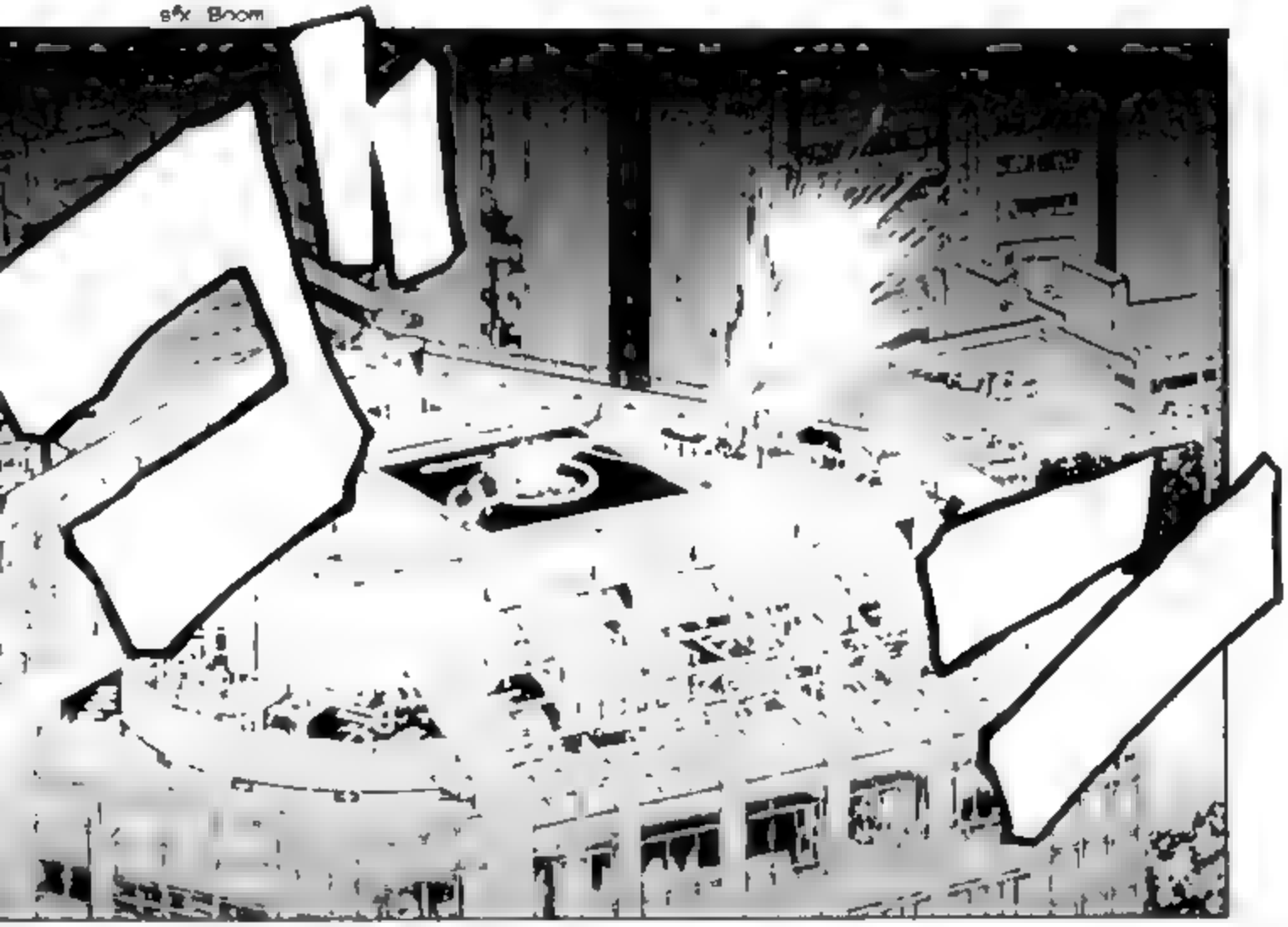
I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO LIVE...
Even though I knew .
...that if I appeared soft in a world controlled by power, that this would happen ..
I
.. didn't even notice this coup d'etat approaching...
. during those ordinary days.

!?
KU-
CHANG
KU-

sfx: zuooh
ZUOOH

sfx Oooh

sfx Boom

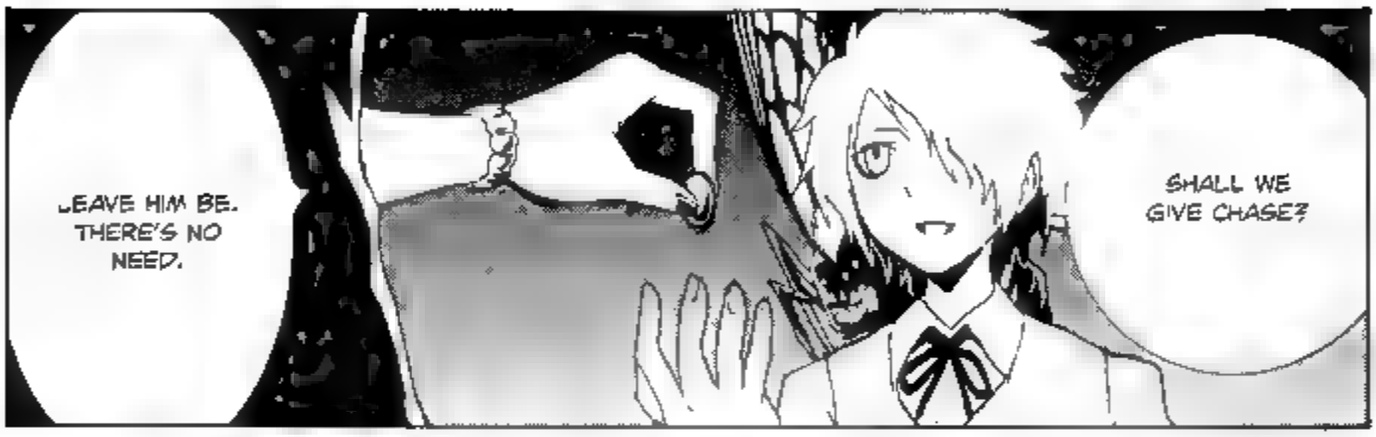


sfx Fwoosh

sfx Ban-ennn
sfx Woompht
NURYAAAAH!
What's that?!
A PARA-CHUTE ?!

sfx: Clink Clink
sfx: Boom Boom
GUAH!
FATHER!
THEY'RE FALLING!
SHIZURU'S THERE!
LET'S GO!

SFX: Fwoooh
OH, MY...
THAT OLD MAN'S AS STUBBORN AS A DEMON.


SHALL WE GIVE CHASE?
LEAVE HIM BE. THERE'S NO NEED.

WE'VE RETRIEVED THE SESSHOUSEKI.
GO POUR SOME TEA AND BRING IT HERE.

GUH!

MURMUR
MURMUR
SOMEONE ON A PARACHUTE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

sfx: Dash
KAIYOU
JGH
...
FATHER!
SHIZURU!!
..

sfx Kacnang
sfx- Crack

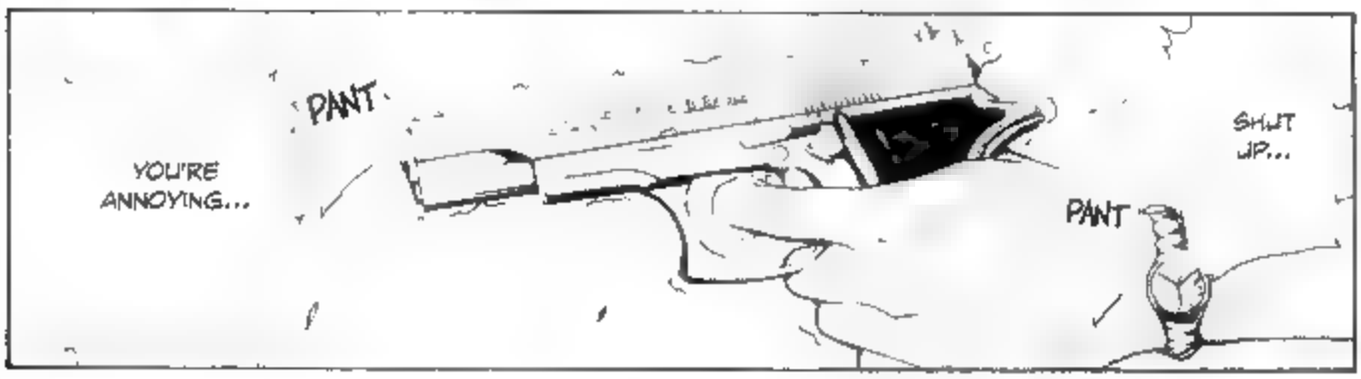
..
DON'T COME...
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...
PANT
PANT

KRIII
WHAT HAPPENED...?
STOP IT, SHIZURU!
That's not real, is it?
What's with that gun?
sfx: murmur murmur

PANT
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
SHUT UP!
PANT

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SESSHOUSEKI?

PUT DOWN THE GUN, SHIZURU.
YOU WON'T HOLD UP VERY LONG WITH THAT INJURY.


PANT
YOU'RE ANNOYING...
SHUT UP...
PANT

LIVE...
CHOOSE YOUR PATH.
SURREN-DER,
UGH

DON'T BE...
...SO SELFISH...
WHAT'S THIS... AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
EVEN THOUGH YOU LET US KILL...
EVEN THOUGH YOU MADE...
...THE TWO OF US INTO MURDERERS...
WHEN I WAS LITTLE,

...I CAN LIVE IN ANY OTHER WORLD!
THERE'S NO WAY...

sfx: Bang

DON'T START ACTING LIKE A NORMAL FATHER AFTER ALL THIS TIME!!
JUST BECAUSE WE WERE BETRAYED BY THE ORGAN ZATION...

Why...
SHIZURU...

Why...

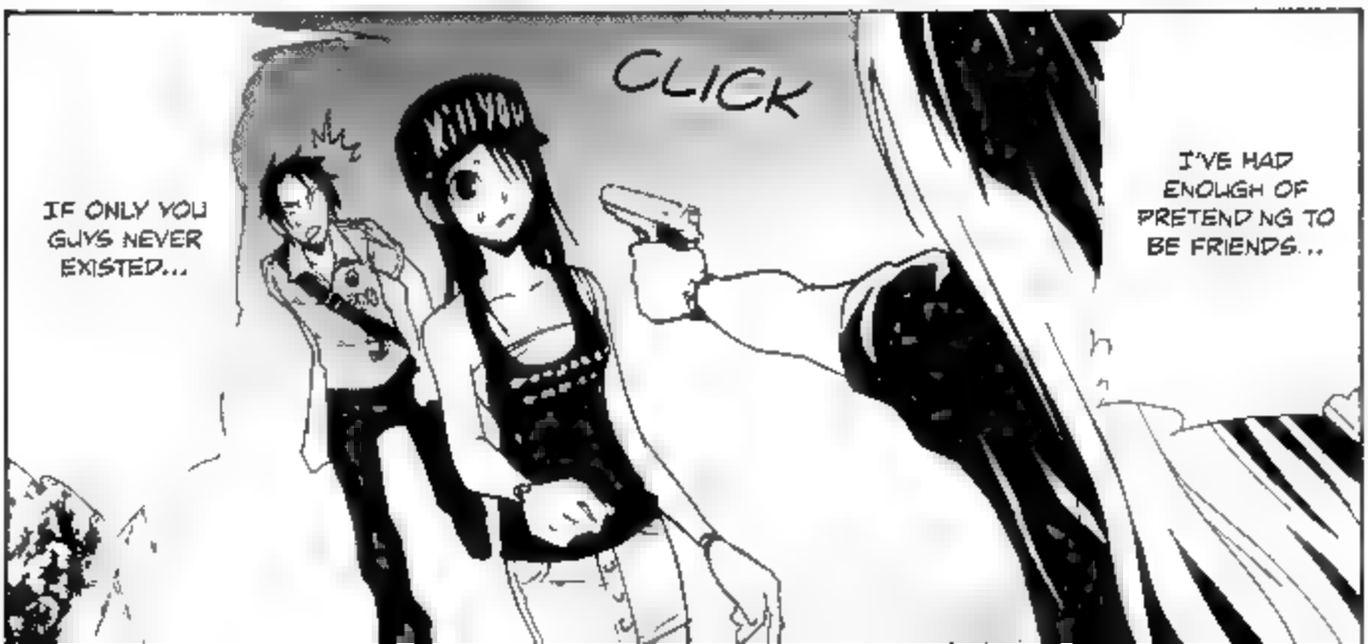
...FROM THE WORLD OF DARKNESS OUR ENTIRE LIVES,
...MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE...
WE ..

KEN YOU
BUT EVEN SO, BECAUSE KEN-CHAN IS HERE...
BECAUSE MY FRIENDS AND ALLIES WERE THERE FOR ME,
I BELIEVE THAT I CAN FIND...
...MY OWN HAPPINESS.

LET'S SEARCH...
...FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE.
BEFORE EVERYTHING IS OVER,
THERE'S NO SENSE DYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

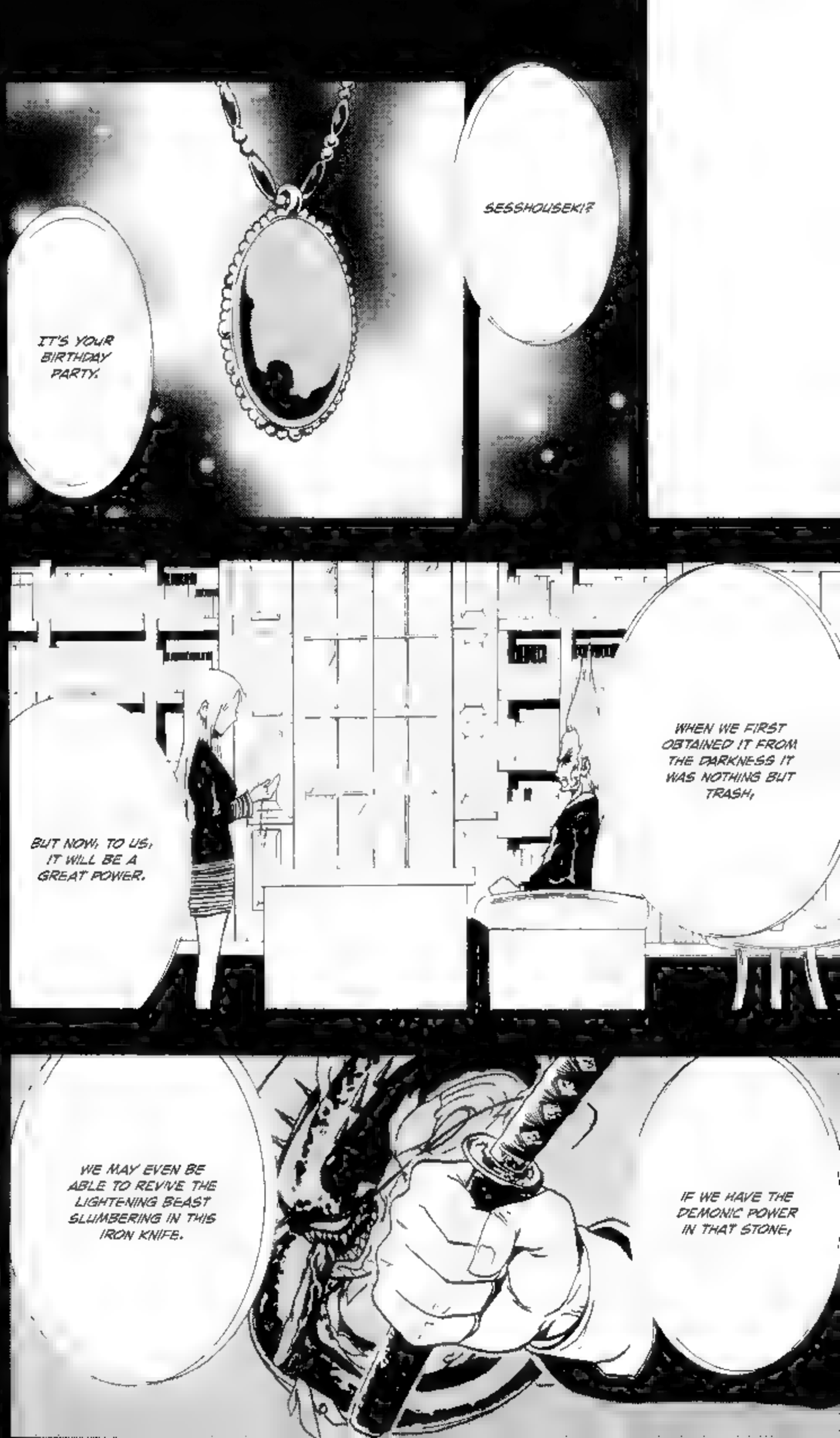
...
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO LIVE...
...UNTIL THIS IS OVER?
O

...LAUGHABLE, STEREOTYPICAL RESPONSE.
WHAT A...

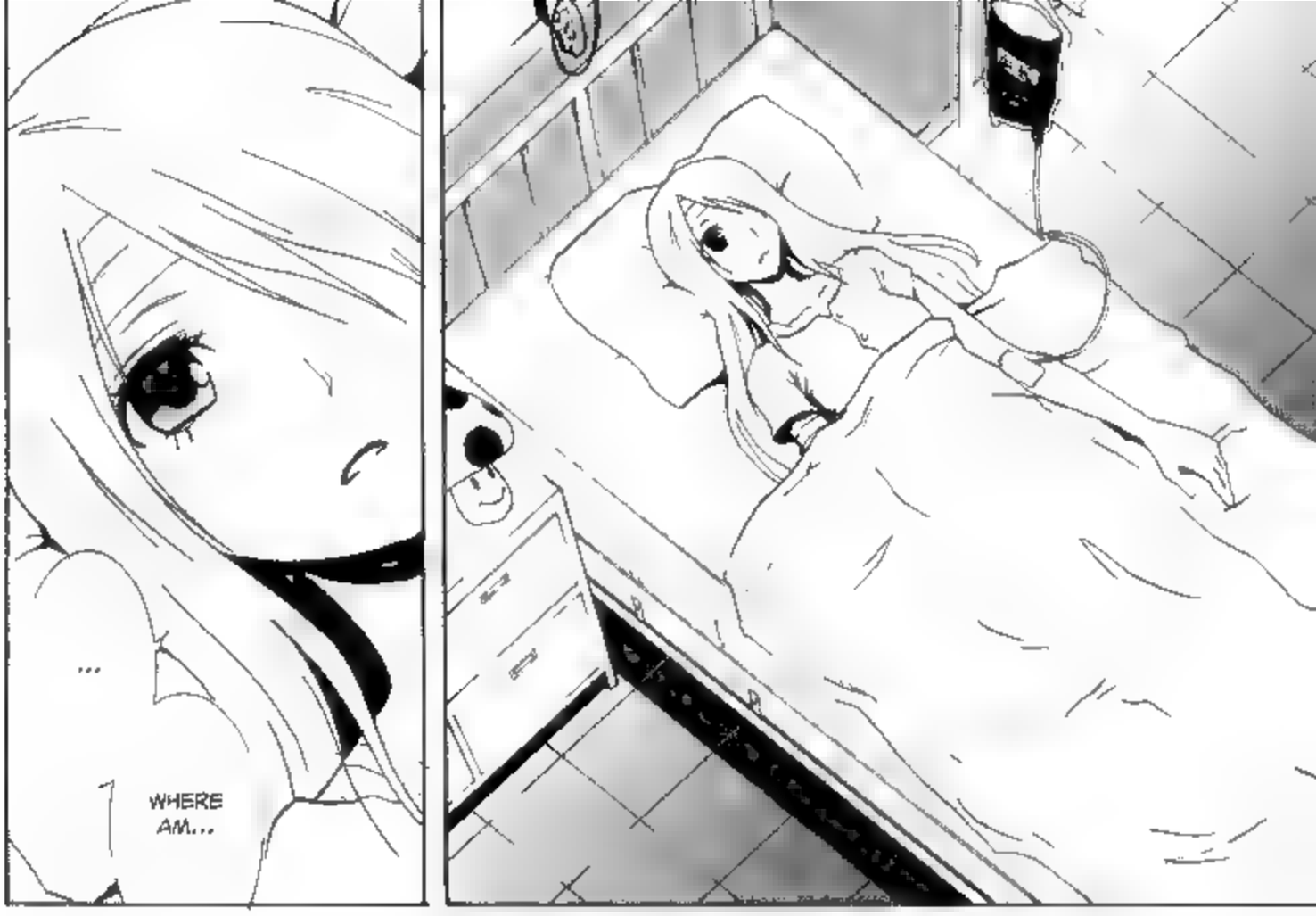

CLICK
Kill You
IF ONLY YOU GUYS NEVER EXISTED...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS...

STOP, SHIZURU!
KAGURA!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D ACCEPT THE PITY OF AN ENEMY!
WAIT, IWAHATA-SAN!

sfx Ba-Boom


IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.
SESSHOUSEKI?
BUT NOW, TO US, IT WILL BE A GREAT POWER.
WHEN WE FIRST OBTAINED IT FROM THE DARKNESS IT WAS NOTHING BUT TRASH,
WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO REVIVE THE LIGHTENING BEAST SLUMBERING IN THIS IRON KNIFE.
IF WE HAVE THE DEMONIC POWER IN THAT STONE,

YOU'RE GIVING THIS... TO ME?
WE WILL DEPART FOR JAPAN...
AS THE NEXT IN LINE TO LEAD THE JUUGONDOU.
...AND OBTAIN THE KYUUBI.


...
WHERE AM...

THE COUNTER-MEASURES DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL TACTICS HEADQUARTERS.

WE KNOCKED YOU OUT AND CARRIED YOU HERE.
IT'S A SPECIAL RUBBER BULLET...

THIS IS THE WORST I'VE EVER FELT.
AWW, YOU KNOW, THE OCEAN LAST TIME WAS WONDERFUL!
HEY, I'M SORRY, BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY PART-TIME JOB SO I'M HANGING UP NOW.
HEY, HOW ABOUT WE GO AGAIN WITH IMAWANO AND THE OTHERS?

DAMN IT...
sfx Chiiirp chiiirp
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN,
CHIIIIRP
CHIIIRP
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? JEEZ...

END

Enchained Spiritual Beast

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IGA-REI *19

Armored Animal Beast
GA-REI

COUNTING THE SESSHOUSEKI WE RETRIEVED FROM SHIZURU LAST TIME. .

SFX: screee

AND MINE, SHIZURU'S,

AND KAZUHIRO'S, THERE ARE FOUR.

PREPARE THE SUBORDINATES.

TONIGHT, THERE'LL BE *ONMYOUJI* HUNTING.

SUPERNATURAL DISASTER
COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL TACTICS
HEADQUARTERS

SFX: boom

..IMAWANO SETSUNA?

SO YOU'RE SAYING... YOU WERE DEFEATED BY YOUR OLDER SISTER...?

THAT'S THE FURTHEST I FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT.

I AM A CONFINED PRISONER OF WAR.

MY DISPOSAL WILL BE DETERMINED BY YOUR ONMYOUJI ELDER ASSEMBLY, RIGHT?

DON'T COME SO LIGHT-HEARTEDLY, PRETENDING TO BE MY FRIEND.

AN INSURRECTION ...?

...

SFX: rumble rumble rumble

IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE THE HEAD OF THE JUGONDOU.

I ONCE BATTLED H.M IN TOKYO DURING THE WAR...

IT MAY HAVE BEEN...

THE END OF AN ERA...

THEIR TARGET WAS THE SESSHOUSEKI.

YOU TWO, PREPARE TO GO OUT.

...my head can't follow what's going on...

Honestly...

There's the thing with Shizuru, too...

CRACKLE

...but the one I'm most worried about...

...is Kagura...

IS SHE., FEELING BAD AGAIN?

AND RECENTLY, SHIRO'S BEEN STABLE.

I'M FINE. IT FEELS LIKE I'VE ONLY GOT A SLIGHT FEVER.

BUT WHY DON'T WE VISIT KEN-CHAN'S HOUSE ALONG THE WAY?

IT'S SAFER STAYING HERE.

I WANT TO GO WITH IWAHATA-SAN TO MY HOUSE TO GET A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...

AND SOME FOR SHIZURU, TOO.

THEN I'LL FOLLOW ALONG AS A GUARD.

WELL...

SFX boom

Dozing Tamamo Garden

Dozing Seaweed Garden

THE INSIDE OF THE CAR WAS REDONE AS THE LATEST MODEL. IT'S ALSO BEEN BULLETPROOFED.

RATHER, YOU HAVE A WASTEFULLY RETRO TASTE

BEEP BEEP

AH, LET'S GET SOME SWEETS HERE, TOO.

STOP BEING SO CHEERFUL ...

IT'S LIKE WE'RE GOING ON AN OUTING. ISN'T IT FUN?

whisper

WE GOT CARRIED AWAY. .

... AGAIN.

...YOU CAN'T BE RELEASED...

...FROM YOUR FATE.

AS LONG AS BYAKUEI ISN'T DESTROYED...

OTHERWISE, WE WON'T KNOW WHEN BYAKUEI'LL GO OUT OF CONTROL AGAIN...

I AT LEAST WANT TO KNOW THAT MUCH. .

CAN THE KYUUBI'S POWER DO THAT?

IS THAT. .

REALLY ALL RIGHT...?

二里望

SFX: shhhhhe

!!

SFX: fwhoosh

HE'S—!

AUGHHHH!!

SFX: rumble rumble
rumble rumble rumble

DID THOSE TWO
ALREADY FALL
ASLEEP, ?

HUH?

SFX rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble

WH—

WHERE ...?

SFX Oooooo

OUR SPIRITS ARE SEPARATED FROM OUR BODIES

KEN-CHAN! WE'RE SPIRIT BODIES!

WHA-?

SFX: rushe

FUFU,

THIS IS A WORLD IN ANOTHER DIMENSION CONNECTED TO THE SESSHOUSEKI.

WELCOME TO SEAWEED GARDEN.

TO THE SESSHOUSEKI. ...?!

AND YOU'RE...

YOU... BROUGHT US HERE...?!

MITOGAWA KAZUHIRO...

I HAVE NO INTENTION TO FIGHT.

UNLIKE YOU, WHOSE SOUL IS TIED TO A SPIRIT BEAST, I'M COMPLETELY UNARMED.

My spirit's also separated from my body

DIDN'T HE SUDDENLY GROW TALLER ...?

I JUST WANT TO EXCHANGE A FEW WORDS TODAY.

YOU CAN ONLY ENTER AS A SPIRIT,

THIS GARDEN'S A PRIVATE SPACE CREATED BY THE LORD.

AND THERE IS STILL NO ONE OTHER THAN ME WHO KNOWS HOW TO.

SFX: Oooooooo

SO THAT MEANS... OUR BODIES ARE STILL IN THE CAR...

BUT EVER SINCE WHAT HAPPENED IN HIBIYA PARK...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING...

SFX clang

SFX. kiiii

!!

..I HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS I'VE WANTED TO ASK YOU...

SFX pull pull

SFX rustle

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU EVEN IF YOU'RE UNARMED.

YOU USED YOMI AND US.

IN ORDER TO AWAKEN THE OTHER SESSHOUSEKI...

..

IS HE TRULY ANGRY?

IF YOU KILL ME, THEN YOU WON'T BE GETTING ANY ANSWERS.

OH, MY. HOW PASSIONATE.

SFX: boom

THIS IS THE SANCTUARY OF LORD TAMAMO

DESIST.

!!

IT IS THE VENGEFUL GHOST OF THE *YOUJUTSU-SHI** WHO CAUSED THE CAPITAL TO DESCEND NTO DARKNESS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

SFX: crack

IT WON'T ATTACK.

DON'T WORRY.

WHA-

*demonic technique user

SFX: crackle crackle

LORD TAMAMO.

THE SUCCESSOR OF THE PREVIOUS KYUUBI.

TAMAMO

-ES

SFX: rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble

SFX Ommm

O, THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY FATE...

SFX bwaaaaah

FIGHT BATTLES REVOLVING AROUND THE TEN SESSHOUSEKI SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT WORLD...

...AND DEMONSTRATE YOUR POWER BEFORE THE LORD

...WILL GAIN THE RIGHT TO SUCCEED THE KYUUBI.

THE LAST ONE STANDING..

AND WHAT'S WITH THE "CHOSEN ONES"...?

WHAT'S WITH THIS PLACE...?

TEN?!

...AND THE POWER RESTING WITHIN INDIVIDUAL STONES...

THOSE WHO CAN DRAW OUT THEIR LATENT SPIRIT POWER...

BOTH OF YOU HAVE HAD YOUR LIVES SAVED SEVERAL TIMES...

...BY A FRAGMENT OF THE KYUUBI'S FORBIDDEN POWER OF CONTROLLING LIFE AND DEATH.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE STAYING YOUNG BY USING THAT ABILITY?

...THEN, THE REASON OUR WOUNDS HEAL QUICKLY IS ALSO BECAUSE...

...WAS ALSO THE SESSHOUSEKI'S..

THAT YOUTHFUL APPEARANCE WE SAW LAST TIME...

BINGO.

THAT APPEARANCE IS USED TO LOWER THE ENEMY'S GUARD...

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO BE IMMORTAL, NEVER AGING, IF YOU BECOME THE KYUUBI'S SUCCESSOR.

SFX: boom

...WHAT WILL YOU WISH OF FROM THE KYUUBI?

KAGURA-SAN. .

WHAT . ARE YOU PLANNING?

SFX: clatter

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO,

BUT TO SUDDENLY BR NG US TO SUCH A WORLD...

AND EVEN PURPOSELY SHOW US TAMAMO. .

THE DESTRUCTION OF BYAKUEI?

AFTER ALL, IT WAS ORIGINALLY SOMETH NG AKIN TO A CH LD'S INCARNA- TION OF THE KYUUB .

THAT IS ALSO A POS- S BILITY..

HONESTLY, I DON'T CARE WHO SUCCEEDS THE KYUUBI.

NOTHING, REALLY. IT'S JUST THAT IT'S UNFAIR.

IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER.

THE GOLDEN NINE-TAILED FOX...

AS LONG AS I CAN CATCH A GLIMPSE...

...OF THAT GRAND, BEAUTIFUL FIGURE...

SFX: rumble rumble
rumble rumble rumble

AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AROUND. .

HE . . REALLY IS CRAZY, ISN'T HE...?

SFX: stand forward

!!

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DESTROYING BYAKUEI, EVEN IF I OBTAIN THE KYUUB .

EH?! BUT...

I'VE ALWAYS FOUGHT ALONGSIDE SHIRO.,

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

AHHH!

...AND KILL HIM.

I CAN'T JUST TREAT HIM AS A DISPOSABLE TOOL...

...

I'M SORRY ..

I ONCE THOUGHT I WANTED TO THROW AWAY SUCH A BEAST...

BUT EVEN SO...

...

TO ME, SHIRO'S ..

...LIKE THE LAST REMAINING FAMILY MEMBER I HAVE...

Family?

A monster that may take her life at any time...

...is her family.

SFX: Ru Ru

INTER-
ESTING.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT.

...SHUT UP.

...WITH THAT SENTIMENTALITY.

IT REALLY IS SOMETHING FOR YOU TO HAVE SURVIVED THIS FAR...

SFX: snrrrne

I JUST SUDDENLY FELT LIKE TEASING YOU.

OH, SORRY..

!

WH-

SFX: whoo
WAIT, YOU DAMN BASTARD!!
UGH!
WHY, YOU-!!
IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HURRY AND RETURN TO THE COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT.
I'VE TAKEN UP YOUR TIME, BUT HERE'S A WARNING:

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO FIND NG OUT...
...WHETHER YOU OR SETSUNA-SAN...
...W LL BE THE ONE TO SURVIVE.
SFX. boom
NOWAAAAH!!
WAIT ... WHAT'S GOING ON...?

JUST WHAT IS HE THINKING...?

THAT BASTARD...

LET'S HURRY TO THE COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT...

QUICKLY.

END

...WE ARE "NOTH NG."
WE FIGHT IN THE DARK, AND WE DIE IN THE DARK,
THE "NOTHING" NEEDED TO ORGAN ZE TH S COMPANY IN THE SHADOWS.
[GA-RE] *20
IF THERE WERE A LIGHT OF HOPE EXISTING THERE. .
THEN CERTAINLY IT IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SHOW ME AS WELL...

TSUCHIMIYA KAGURA...

CHAPTER 20
INDOOR
CONVENTION
HONEYCOMB SUMMER NIGHT
YEAH, . HE MIGHT STILL BE NEARBY.
...YOU MEAN YOUR SPIRITS LEFT YOUR BODIES AND YOU CAME INTO CONTACT WITH MITOGAWA?!

I'M DEFINITELY GONNA KILL HIM.
That bastard... even I haven't done that!!

TH S IS BAD... THE PHONE WON'T CONNECT TO THE COUNTER-MEASURE DEPARTMENT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... IN THE END, THEY WERE BOTH SPIRITS!
I KNOW. I'M ERASING IT FROM MY MEMORY...
HAMA

Somehow, again
I have a violent, bad feeling. .
.....
LET'S GO BACK.
sfx: Rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble
SUPERNATURAL DISASTER
COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL TACTICS HEADQUARTERS
sfx: Clatter
sfx: Clank

THAT'S A FACE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
sfx: Clank
THE WORK IS DONE.
BREAK IN.
HEY, YOU NEW HERE?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE COMPUTER ROOM?
PREPARING THE STAGE.
sfx: Rumble rumble rumble rumble

sfx: Clank clank
sfx: Boom
sfx: Stomp stomp
sfx: Bang bang bang bang

OFF
1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
X 0 #
GUN SOUNDS ?!
THE ELECTRIC LOCKS HAVE BEEN RELEASED...
sfx: Bang bang bang bang, bang bang

NEE-SAN'S ...
IT CAN'T BE...

TEACH THOSE DOGS HOW TO DANCE.
FINISH IT IN THREE MINUTES.

sfx: Boom
UOOH!!
sfx: Bang bang
sfx: Craaack
sfx: Bang bang bang

sfx: Bang bang
AN ASSAULT TROOP...?!
WE'RE ALSO BEING INVADED FROM THE BACK!
sfx: Bang bang
sfx: Bang

WITH SUCH SECURITY, HOW WERE WE SO EASILY...
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
sfx: Stand

THE COMPUTERS DON'T WORK!
THE CONTROL SYSTEM WAS DESTROYED FROM THE INSIDE!
THE PROTECT-IVE WALLS AREN'T FALLING EITHER!
EVEN THE ALARM SYSTEM ...
WE CAN'T CONTACT THE OUTSIDE!

They're aiming for the Sesshouseki kept here...
Done from the inside?! Does that mean there's a spy?

sfx Boom

sfx Bang bang bang bang

THE WALL!!

sfx: Boom

sfx Bang bang bang

NUOOOH!!

sfx: Step
YOU MAKE ME LAUGH. SO THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET ORGAN ZATION?
NABUUU!!
SO EVEN THE MAGIC ORGAN ZATION THAT HAS PROTECTED THE COUNTRY EVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES...
...ARE JUST HUMANS BEFORE LEAD.
sfx: bang bang

YOU'RE ...
sfx: Boom
sfx: Pfuuuu
THE ONE WHO WAS SURVEYING OUR SECRET HIDEOUT.
ONE HOUR AGO, WE RESTRAINED ONE OF YOUR SUBORDINATES OVER THERE,
sfx: Bang bang bang
sfx: Bang
TO THE PLACEMENT OF THE STAFF, FROM HIM.
FROM THE SECURITY PASSWORD,
WE HEARD ALL OF THE INFORMATION.

sfx: Crackle crackle
THERE WAS NO NEED TO MAKE HIM CONFESS.
For someone to make one of the inside members confess so easily...
That's impos-sible ...
...! It can't be that she's..
sfx: Rustle
SETSUNA-NEESAN...

sfx: Crackle crackle crackle crackle

UGH!
sfx: Clank
I'm being read... Is it a spirit ability?!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE RAISED TO BE A MORE USEFUL PERSON...
I'M DISAP-POINTED.

BUT THERE IS NOTHING IN YOUR HEART.

!!
...What? She read my thoughts?
"SHE READ MY THOUGHTS?"
HA HA, JUST FOR HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO BE TIED TO THE ILLUSION OF THE PAST?

NO REASON FOR FIGHTING. NO WILL.
NO ONE TO PROTECT.
NO HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.
THERE'S NO REASON TO LET YOU LIVE.
YOU AREN'T WORTH BEING MY SUBORDI-NATE.

...!!

sfx. Tzzzzz

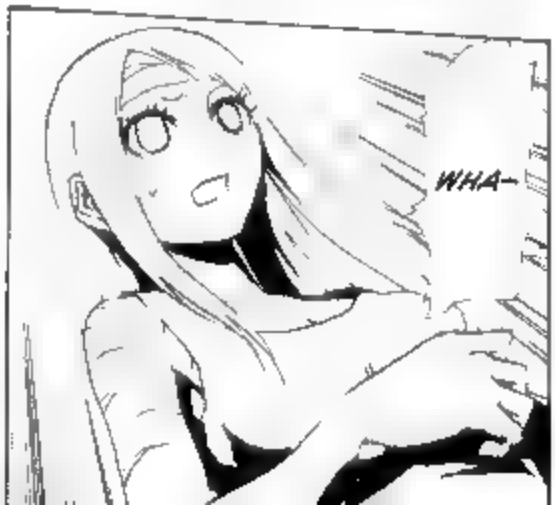
sfx swoosh

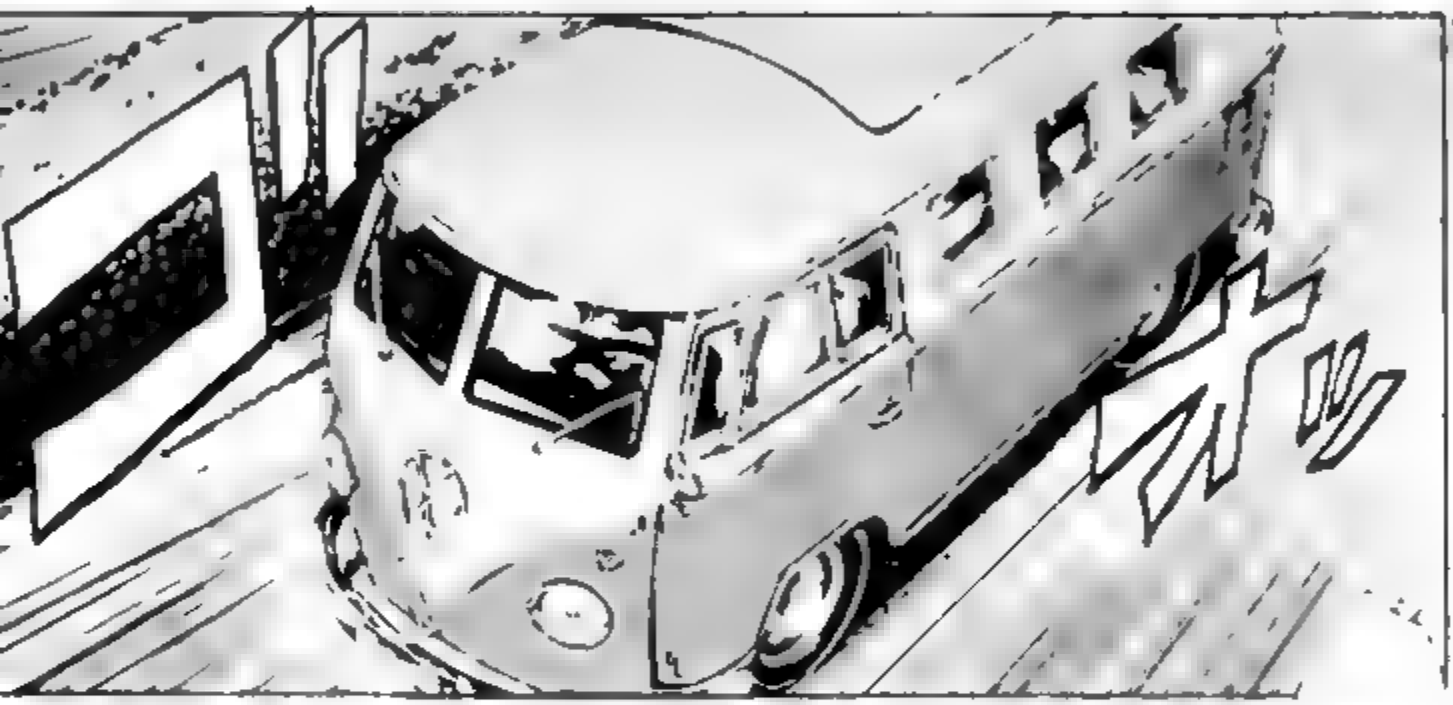
sfx Shaaaaa

OH...?

sfx: Woooooo
THERE IS AN EMERGENCY EXIT IN THE NEXT ROOM OVER.
...RUN, LITTLE GIRL. I CAN'T HOLD HER FOR LONG...
sfx: Fwheeeee

GO.


WHA-

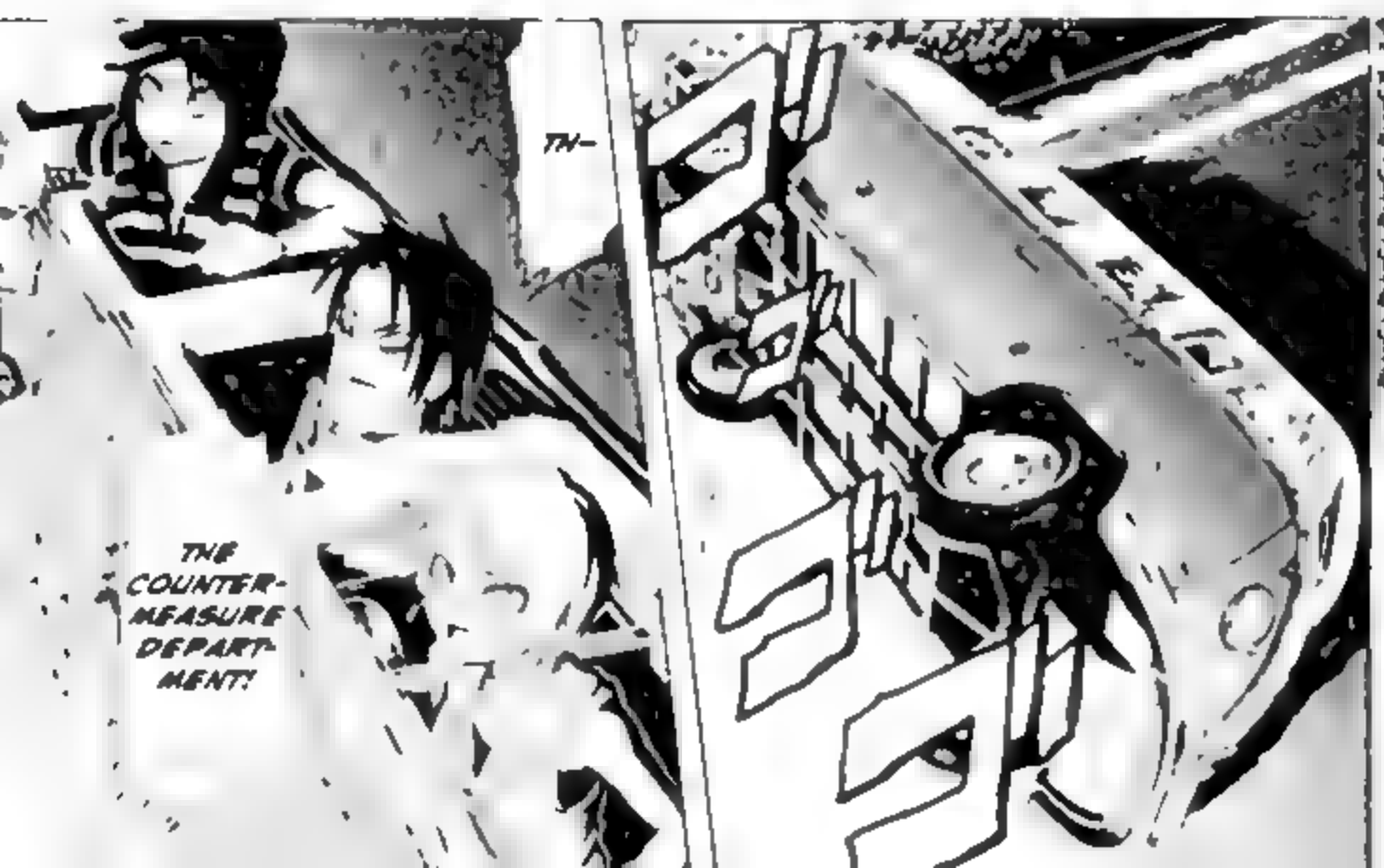

VROOM

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MANAGERS
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE I THINK, BUT STILL

WE'RE HERE
FOR SOME REASON I FEEL UNEASY

SFX boom

©fx Fwhooo



sfx: Rumble rumble rumble
sfx: Rumble rumble rumble rumble rumble
WHAT ABOUT THOSE INSIDE ...?
WHAT ABOUT SHIZURU ?!
sfx: Murmur murmur
THE MANAGERS ?!

YOUR RETURN WAS EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED.
OH?
sfx: Boom
HOWEVER, TOO BAD.
EVERYONE'S DEAD.

IT CAN'T BE SHE-!!
THE SESSH OU-SEKI...
sfx. Shiine
sfx. Flap flap
YOU'RE THE NEW HEAD OF THE JUGONDOU?!

"SUI-KO."*
*written with the characters for "Water Tiger"

sfx: Fwoooom
CLANK
DOOF
WATER
2!

sfx Splash
sfx Bloop
THE FUDA ...
A SPIRIT BEAST?!
GABAAGH!!
KYOUKO-CHAN!
sfx Gabloop

RE-
LEASE
GA-REI
...
sfx: Bang
WITH THAT, YOU CAN'T FORM THE SEAL FOR NOW.

KAGURA !!
GAA AH!
...
AGH !!

WHY, YOU-!!
SORRY, BUT IT IS MY PRINC PLE TO NOT FIGHT FOR MORE THAN THREE M.NUTES A DAY.

sfx: Fwnoo
I'M TIRED...

sfx: Craaack
DAMN IT!
ARE YOU EVEN HUMAN?!
YOU IDIOTICALLY KILL PEOPLE AS THOUGH THEY WERE NOTHING...
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING?!

TO ME, AN ENEMY IS AN *IMPORTANT EXISTENCE,* BOY.
I DO FEEL...
GOAAH!
SFX: Thunk
THEN I WOULD LOSE THE MEANING OF MY LIFE.
GAH!
IF THERE WERE NO ONE TO FIGHT,

sfx - Whoosh
HAMA
UGH!
ONE'S DEATH...
...GRANTS ME "LIFE."
sfx: Grab
AUGH!
sfx: Crash

YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO RUN AND NO PLACE TO RETURN TO.
I'LL SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY KILL YOU ONE BY ONE.
GUH...
NOW THAT THE COUNTER-MEASURE DEPARTMENT'S ANNIHILATED,
YOU ARE THE NEXT TARGETS.
THIS IS A GAME.

sfx: Rustle
STRUGGLE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN;
AND CRAWL AROUND ...
UNTIL I FINISH GATHERING THE SESSHOU-SEKI.
sfx: Vroom
Just what are we looking like here...?

sfx Splash
COUGH
BAAH!!
KYOUKO-CHAN!
Did everyone really die...?
What should we do from now on
...with just us?
THE FIRE TRUCK'S NOT HERE YET?
DID YOU CALL THE POLICE ?
...

Even with the four of us, we couldn't match her.
Is she... our enemy?

END

Enchained Spiritual Beast

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Run little girl

pant

pant

SFX: FZZZZZZ

...UGH.

MY CON-SCIOUS-NESS.

SFX splash

SFX splash

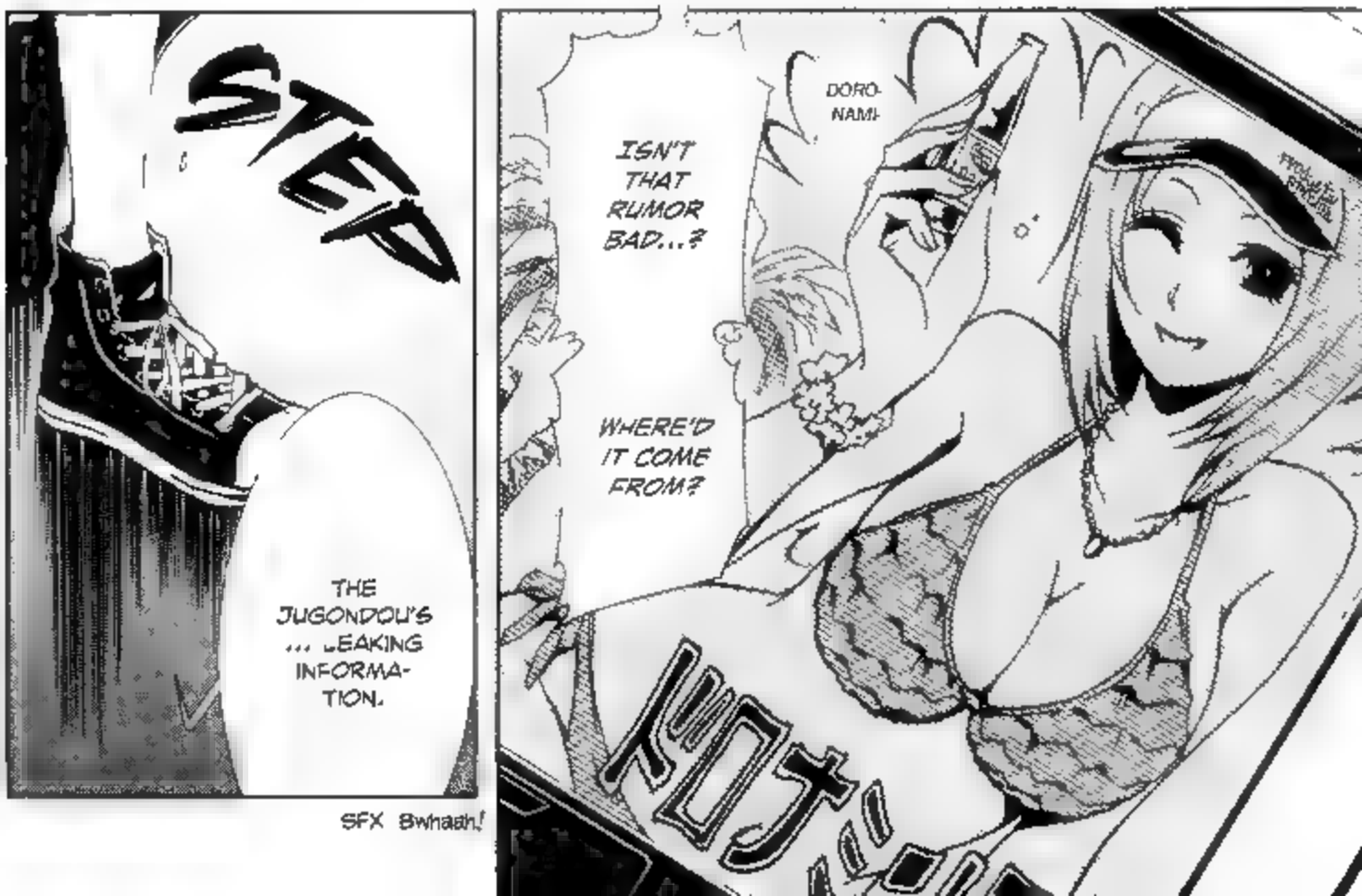
CHAPTER 21
SUMMER VACATION OF DOWNPOURS
DEAD END SUMMER VACATION

T24444
DAIGAKUIMO HOSPITAL
ON THE EXPLOSION LAST NIGHT THAT HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES OF MORE THAN TWENTY
NEARBY RESIDENTS HAVE TESTIFIED THAT THERE WERE GUN SOUNDS,
AND THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT IS INTERNAL TERRORISM.
Not yet . is it because they couldn't identify the corpses?
I still can't believe the managers'... and Shizuru's death ..

*Daigakuimo = candied sweet potato

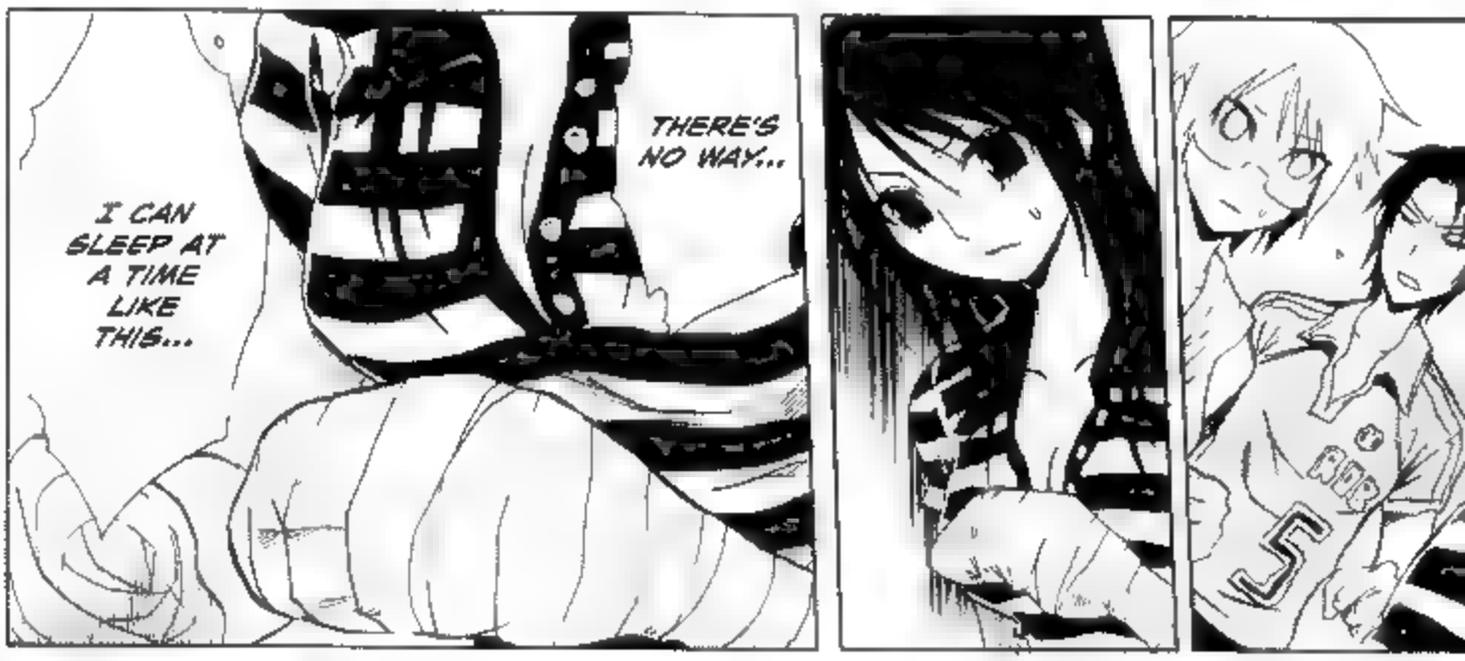
TO THE MYSTERIOUS, ENORMOUS DISASTER THAT HAPPENED IN HIBIYA PARK FOUR MONTHS AGO.
AND THERE IS ALSO GOSSIP CIRCULATING THAT IT IS CONNECTED
THE BOMBED BUILDING WAS A TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION,
SFX murmur, murmur

!!
IT IS REPORTED THAT THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY A GAS LEAKAGE IN A COMPANY-OWNED HOUSE
IT IS A BASELESS RUMOR.
WHA-


STEP
THE JUGONDOU'S ... LEAKING INFORMATION.
SFX Bwhaah!
DORO-NAMI
ISN'T THAT RUMOR BAD...?
WHERE'D IT COME FROM?
KUTT

KA-GURA!!
SFX boom
WE COUNTER-MEASURE DEPARTMENT WERE, FROM THE BEG NNING, AN INFORMAL ORGAN ZATION THAT DID NOT EXIST...
SHE PLANS TO PUBLICIZE IT, SEAL NG OUR MOVEMENTS.
THAT'S NO GOOD. SURGERY JUST FINISHED.
AND YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER...
THAT'S ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT NOT SLEEPING?
I'M FINE.

I'M TELLING YOU I'M FINE!


I CAN SLEEP AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
THERE'S NO WAY...

AND EVEN SHIZURU,
THE MANA-GERS ...
EVERYONE DIED...

SFX rumble rumble rumble rumble
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT IN THAT SITUATION...
I WAS TOO NAIVE.

IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HURRY AND RETURN TO THE COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT.

He also knew that we wouldn't make it in time..
...

I...
COULDN'T PROTECT ANYONE.
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...

doing that..
He enjoyed making me suffer

This is turning out just like he wanted!
No, at a time like this.
It's not leaving my head

...
useless member #

...
THEN TELL ME,
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

DON'T SHOULDER EVERY-THING...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR FAULT...

WE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS...
...OF THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT...
WE HAVE NO PLACE TO GO BACK TO NOW!
...CAN NO LONGER PROTECT YOU.
ON TOP OF THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING BEING EXPOSED ON THE MEDIA,
YOUR PHOTOS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED ON THE INTERNET...
I DON'T WANT TO ABANDON YOU, BUT...
PLEASE UNDERSTAND...
...
ALONG WITH THE RUMOR THAT YOU'RE RELATED TO THE INCIDENT.

FROM THE BEGINNING, THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS OF THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE DIET WHO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE OCCULT...
IT WAS BECAUSE THAT MANAGER WAS THERE...
...THAT THE SYSTEM OF THE COUNTER-MEASURE DEPARTMENT WAS MAINTAINED FOR SO MANY YEARS!
AS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, THE JUGONDOU WILL WATCH OVER IT.
PLEASE HIDE YOURSELVES UNTIL THIS HAS QUIETED DOWN.

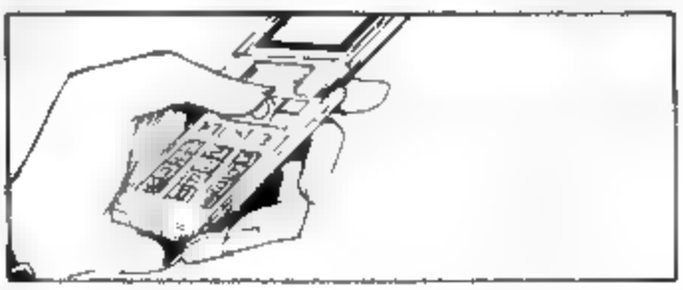
TSUKI
IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE SAFELY OBTAINED THE SESS-HOUSEKI...
HOWEVER, THE BATTLE WITH TSUCH-MIYA WAS NOT PREDICTED.
IT WAS YOUR DOING, WASN'T IT BRAT.

*Satori is a mythical being who can read minds.

PICKING YOU UP WAS MY WHIM AS WELL.
OH, WELL...
hmph
BESIDES,
THERE ARE STILL THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
SFX. rumble rumble rumble rumble

SORRY, KYOJKO .. EVEN IF WE TRY COUNTER ATTACKING.
WE HAVE ORDERS TO HALT ALL ACTION.
BESIDES, WE'RE AN ORGANIZATION OF FEW PEOPLE.
AFTER GETTING INVOLVED IN THE YOMI INCIDENT TWICE, OUR BATTLE STAFF HAS MOSTLY BEEN LOST.
FOR NOW WE CAN ONLY OBSERVE THE SITUATION AND REGROUP.

WE WILL SEND GUARDS.
ESCAPE THE EAST WITH KAGURA AND THE OTHERS.
TZAAAA



AAA
TZA
THE ELDER ASSEMBLY ...
...SAYS TO MAKE THE SAFETY OF THE SESSHOUSEKI NUMBER ONE PRIORITY...
AND TO ESCAPE FROM THE CITY.

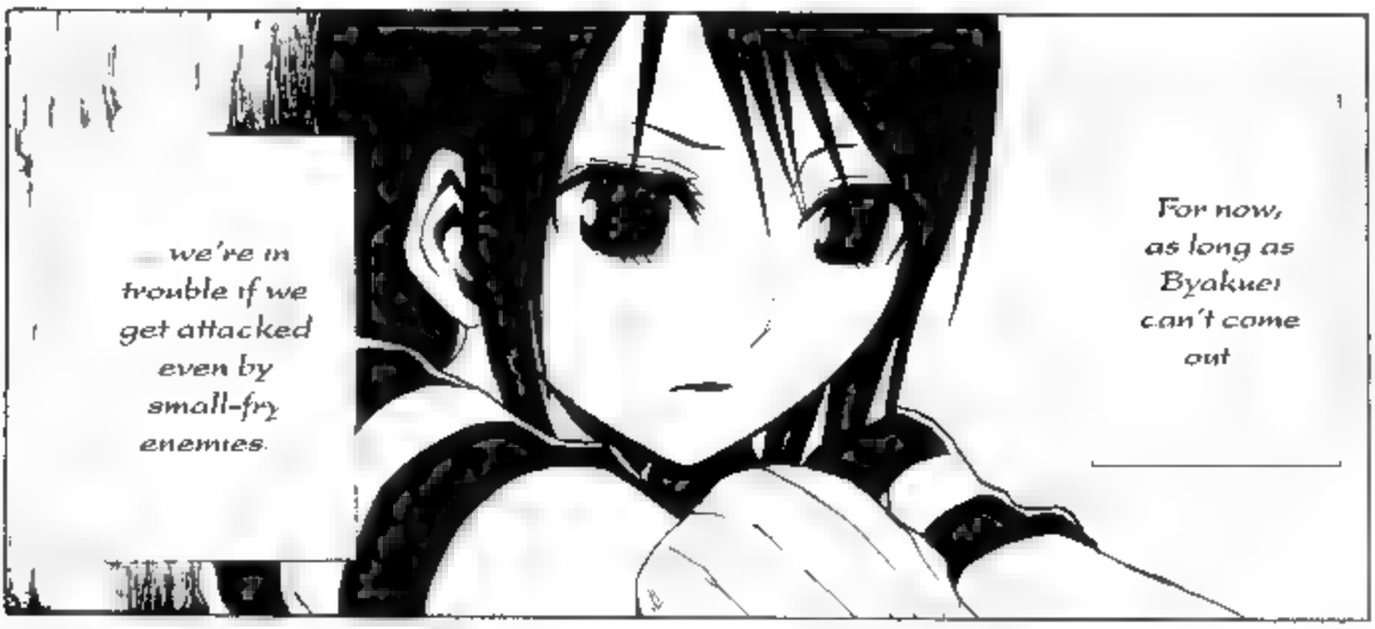
IS IT REALLY THE END FOR US...
WE CAN'T CONTACT THE MEMBERS THAT SHOULD HAVE REMAINED IN THE CITY EITHER...

I'LL LOOK FOR A PLACE ... WHERE WE CAN HIDE EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS.

...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?

splash
WE ALSO NEED CLOTHES AND FOOD,
SO BRING IT WITH A CAR.

Older sister
If I return home
my family and friends will get dragged in as well.
We can do nothing but run.


we're in trouble if we get attacked even by small-fry enemies.
For now, as long as Byakuei can't come out

WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN...
YOU, TOO... IF YOU STAY WITH US,

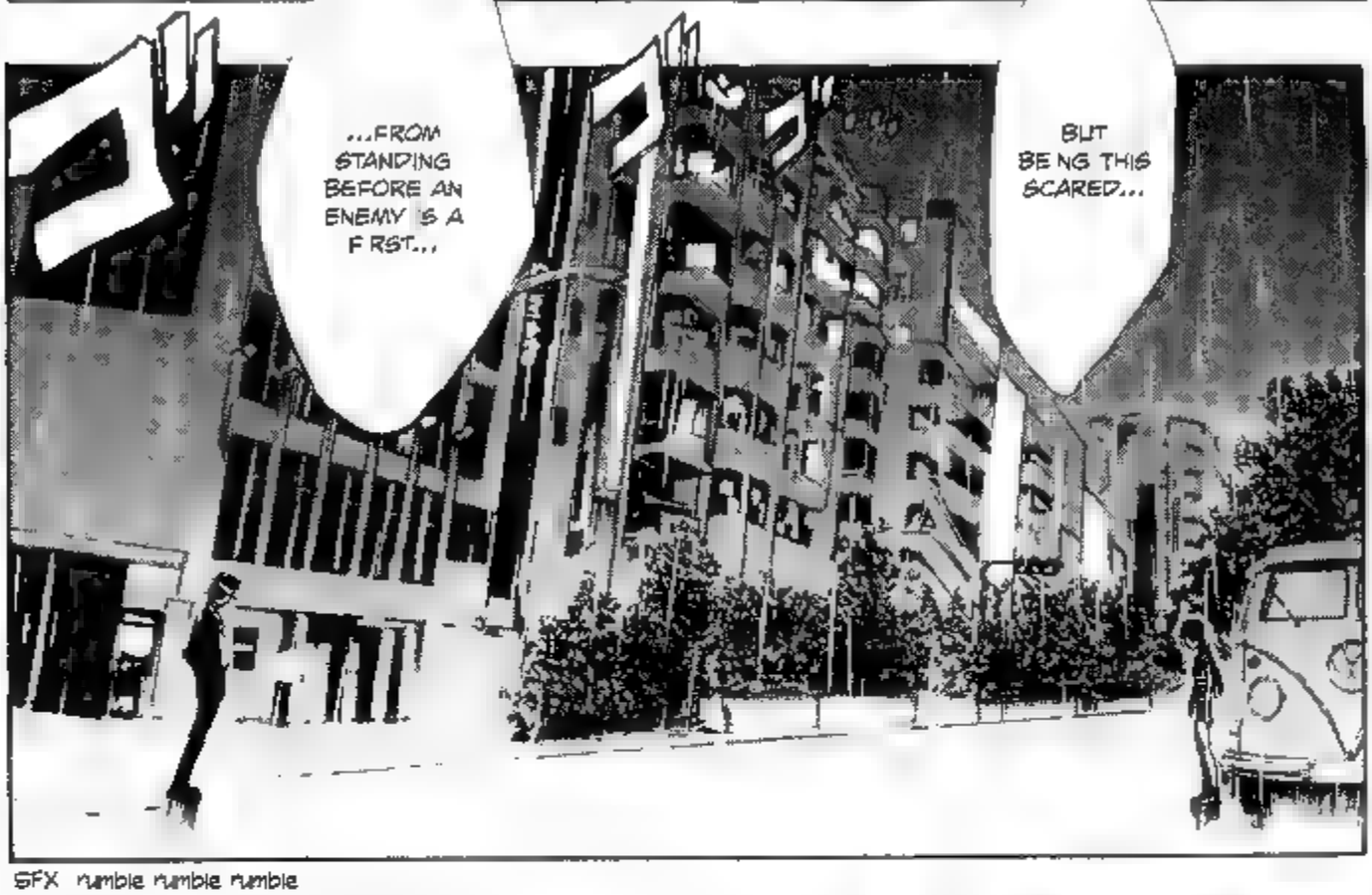
IT'S DANGER-OUS, SO GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS.
WE DON'T HAVE THE FREEDOM TO LOOK AFTER YOU.

Pogoooh!!

oooooooo

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SFX splash

TZAAAA
aaaaaaaaa
.. WHEN WE FACED DEATH...
THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS TIMES...
UNTIL NOW...
aaaaaa



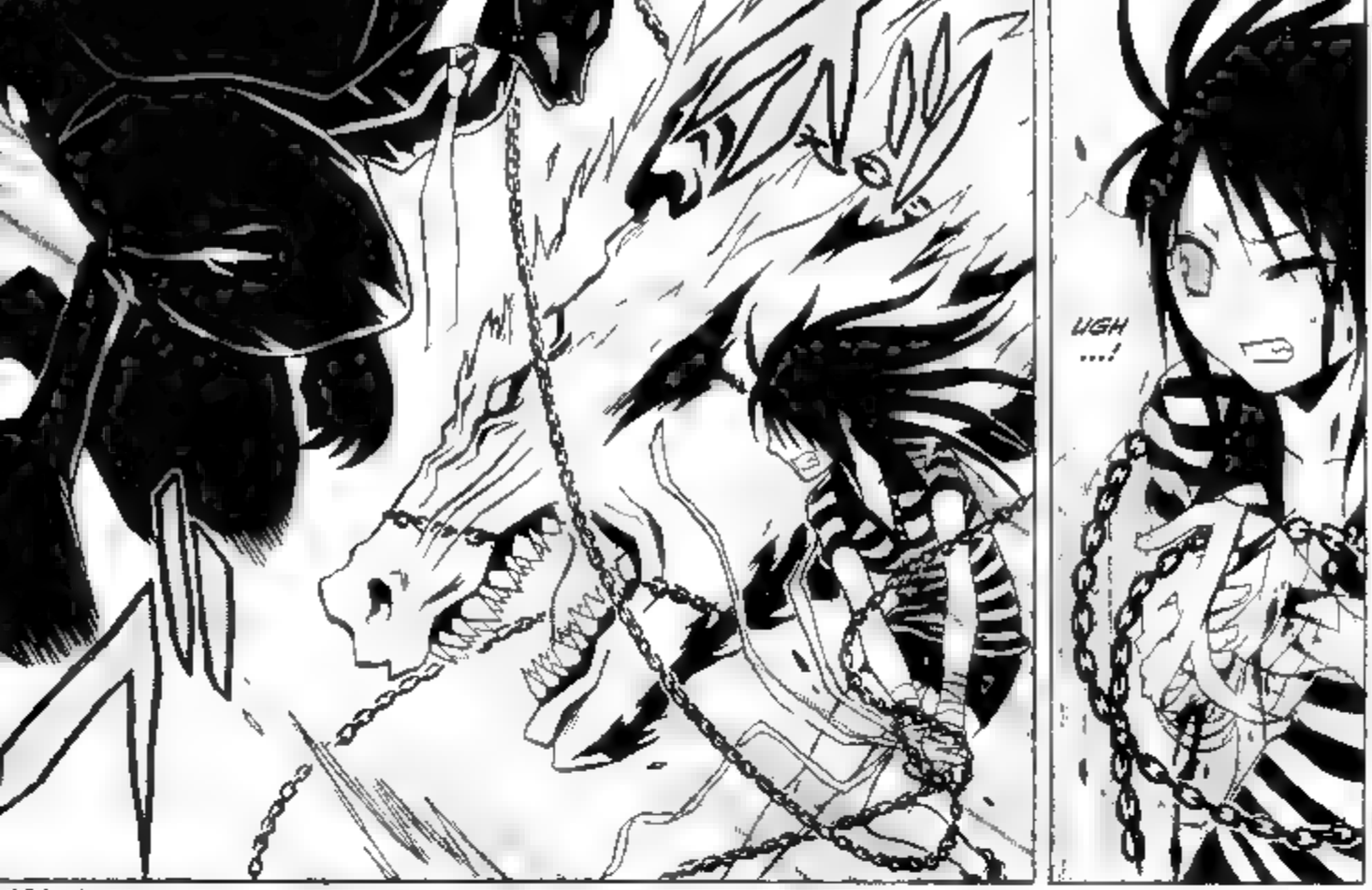
SFX: rumble rumble rumble

SFX: rustle

SFX: crackle crackle crackle crackle
ON MARI-SHIE! SOWA-KA.
A WERE-WOLF?!
BASTARD ... HE WAS POS-SESSED BY AN ANIMAL SPIRIT!

IF I TURN MY BACK NOW,
I WILL LOSE SOMETHING ELSE.
NO...
THEY'LL ONLY CHASE US, ANYWAY.
WE'RE RUNNING, KAGURA!
...TO FACE OTHERS.
I WON'T HAVE THE COURAGE EVER AGAIN...
SFX: emerge emerge

BANG BANG
JUMP
Goaah!
SFX kick
SFX thunk
He's fast!



SFX whoosh

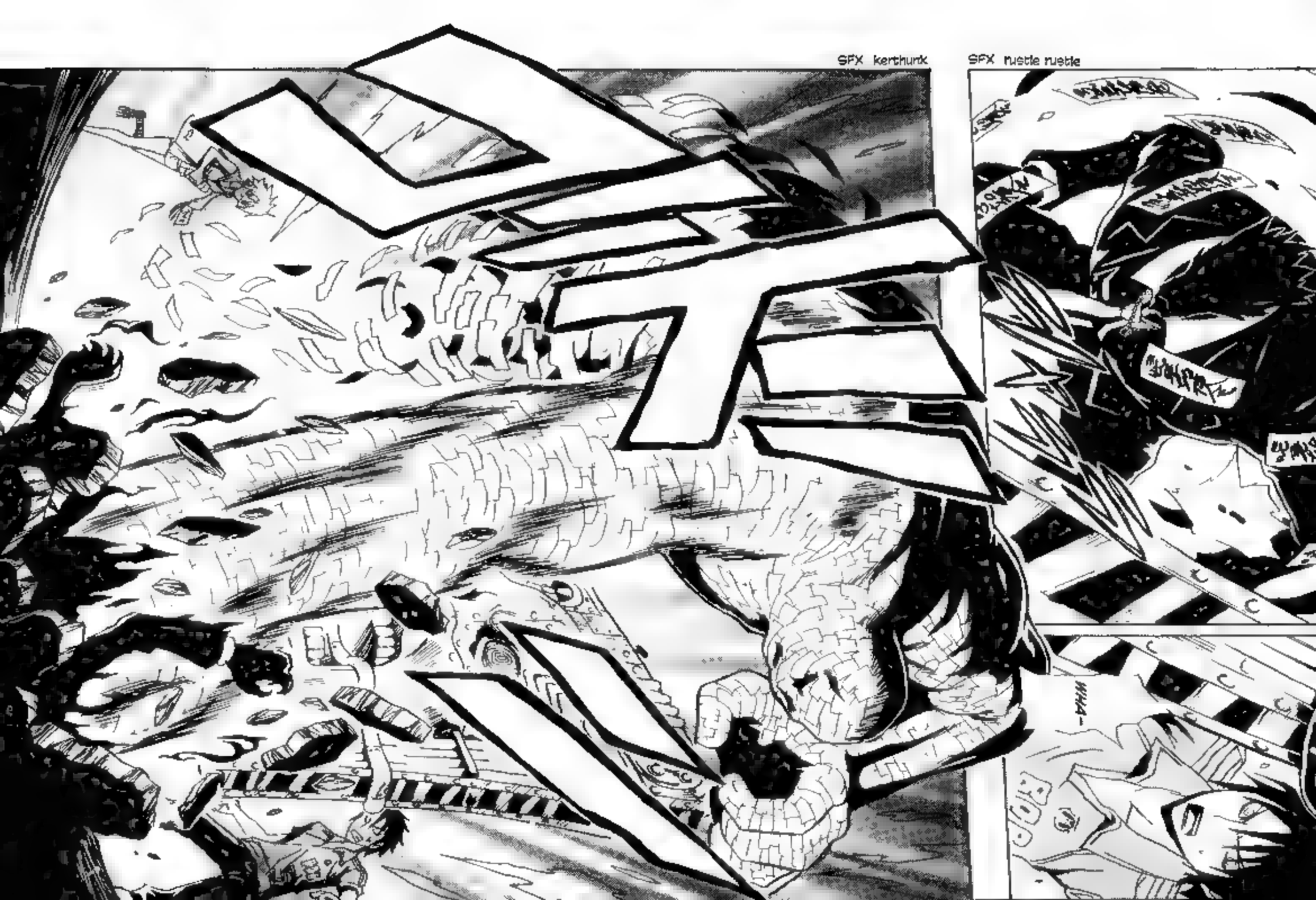
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S NOT BEING CONTROLLED.
MY MISSION WAS ONLY TO SHADOW THEM...
BUT HELPING MYSELF TO THE SESSHOUSEKI WOULDN'T BE BAD EITHER...

SFX boom

SFX rustle

I WILL STAY EVEN IF I STAY ALONE...
NO...!
...IS WHERE I BELONG!
BECAUSE THIS PLACE...
THIS CITY...
...IS MY PROOF OF EXIS-TENCE...
FIGHTING IN THIS CITY AND PROTECT-ING IT...
WHA-?!

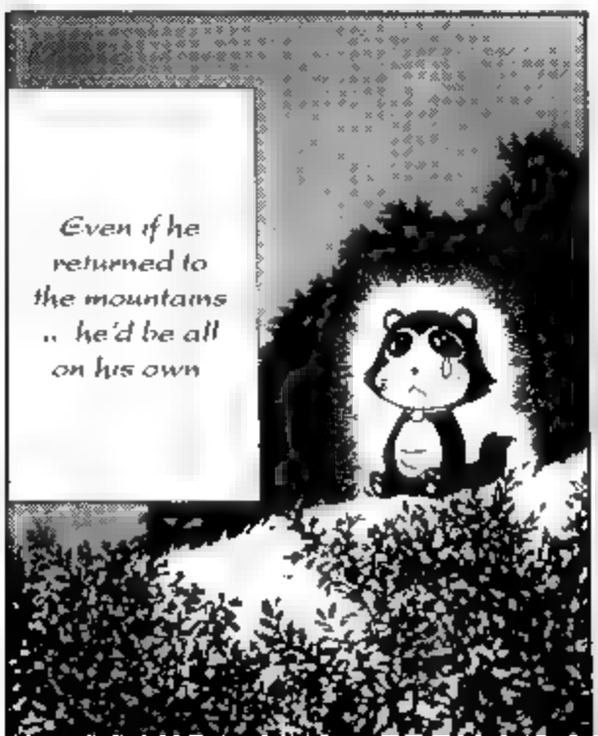
This is the place
where I met everyone,
where I fought alongside them
SFX clang
...
WHERE YOU BELONG?
Hurrgowaaah!
fumee


SFX kerthunk
SFX rustle rustle
WHA-

I WATER-PROOFED THEM.
KYOUKO-CHAN!
...
Productive emotion
Gaah!
SFX bwhoosh

COULDN'T HAVE...
..FOLLOWED US, DID YOU.. ?

YOU...


Even if he returned to the mountains .. he'd be all on his own

I see
Now that I think about it. .
. .his lover's already long gone. .

THAT'S RIGHT...
NOT HAVING A PLACE TO GO...
...IS THE SAME WITH EVERY-ONE...
I also should have long ago.
prepared myself for this, but

Texas Chain Inn
WHAT'S WITH THIS DILAPIDATED APARTMENT BUILDING...?

clatter
IT HASN'T BEEN USED RECENTLY.
SO THE EYES OF THE JUGONDOU SHOULDN'T REACH HERE...
I REMEMBERED THAT WE ONCE PASSED BY IT...
IT'S ONE OF THE BACKUP RESIDENCES THE COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT HAS...

SFX boom

1980
IT SEEMS...
...THAT EVERY-ONE ENDED UP IN THE SAME PLACE.
We still
Hola!
OOOOH! WELCOME! I JUST FINISHED COOKING
IZUNA!!
WH-WHY'RE YOU GUYS HERE...?

have many things we can t discard

As long as we have friends .
a place to return to.
WAIT! DONT BE SO OVERLY INTIMATE!!
perhaps we will always have.

END

Enchained Spiritual Beast

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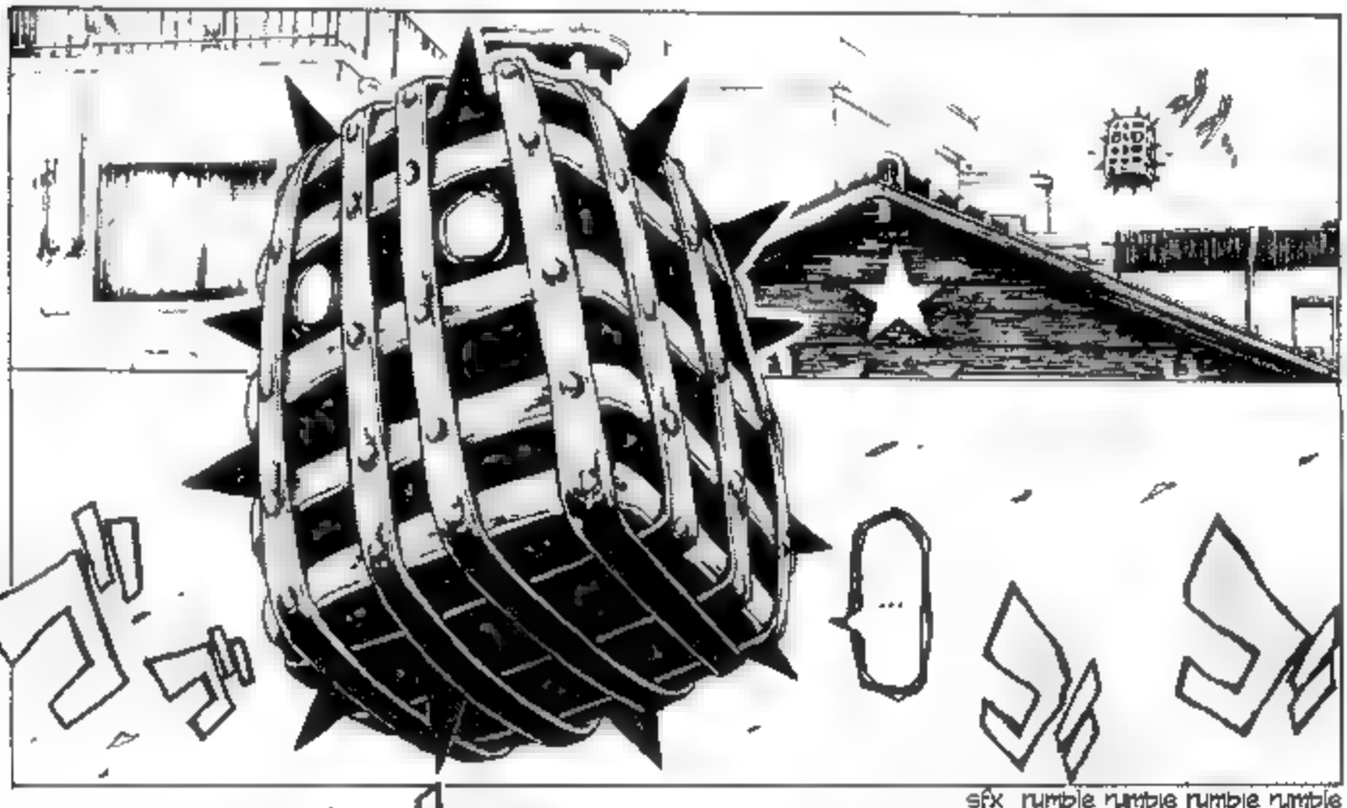
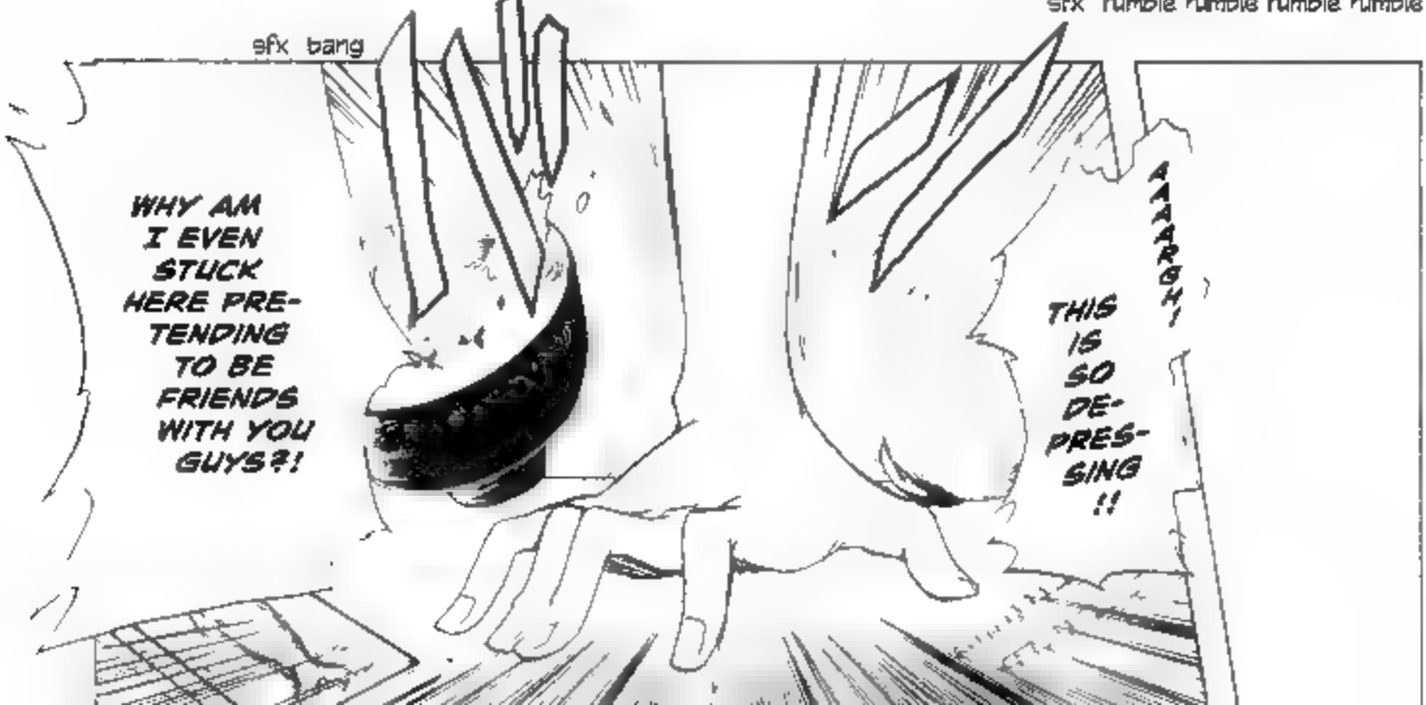
Sign: Texas Chain Inn

[GA-REI] *22



sfx rumble rumble rumble rumble

sfx bang



SFX Bang
BESIDES, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IS TARGETED,
SO WHY ARE WE ALL STUCK HERE IN THE SAME PLACE!!
CALM DOWN NOW.
Chapter 22
LAKE BAG HAUNTED MANSION
Lake Bag Ghost House

SO WE'RE STAYING HERE UNTIL OUR WOUNDS HEAL AT LEAST .
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WE HAVE NO PLACE TO GO
IF WE GET INVADED BY THE TROOPS AGAIN NOW,
THEN WE'D ALL BE DONE FOR IN ONE GO!
ORIGINALLY, THIS WAS OWNED BY THE COUNTER-MEASURE DEPART-MENT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S INTRUDING UPON US.
For now it's good that we found a refuge in the first place
WELL, I HAVE KUDAGITSUNE SURVEYING THE PERIMETERS,
SO IT'S BETTER THAN MOVING CLUM-SILY AROUND, INJURED.
IF YOU HAVE ANY COM-PLAINTS, TELL THEM TO IZUNA!
CLATTER
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS ALREADY HERE!

SINCE ALL THE OTHER BACKUP RESIDENCES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE YET.
I CAN'T TRUST THIS PLACE ANY MORE THAN IF I WERE RIGHT WITH THEM. .
too unprepared for battle.
but we re still

sfx. rumble rumble rumble
I WAS NOTICED WHILE TRAILING THEM. .
MY APOLO-GIES
..

sfx. ba-bang
YOU CAN'T LIE WITH YOUR HEART. .
HOW SUPER-FICIAL.
sfx: crackle crackle crackle
DON'T FORGET YOUR ORDERS ON ACCOUNT OF SELF-INTEREST
EVERYONE, SEARCH WITHIN THE CITY.
IT S DIOTIC TO TH NK THAT WE HAVE LOST SIGHT OF A SET OF EN-EMIES WE LET GO FREE.

sfx rustle
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME READ WHERE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOUR REFUGES ARE
EVEN THE ONES THAT WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE DATABASES DUE TO OLD AGE .
NOW THEN,

I STILL DON'T WISH TO LET THEM ESCAPE...
NG...

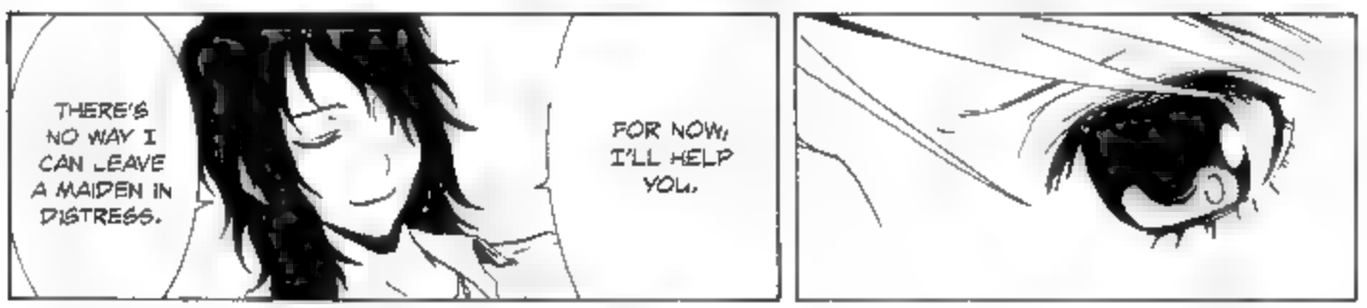
NOT WHILE.
THEY ARE EAGERLY WAITING FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK .

NOW THAT YOU'RE FINALLY FREE FROM THE ORGAN ZATION, DON'T YOU WANT TO GET WELL QUICKLY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS MY FAMILY'S TRADITIONAL CURE-ALL!
WHY ISN'T IT AFFECT-ING YOU?

sfx rumble rumble rumble rumble

I ONLY LOST EVERY-THING.
THAT'S AN ILLUSION...

IF YOU SURVIVE, IT MEANS THAT YOU CAN NDEPEN-DENTLY CHOOSE
THE WAY YOU'D LIKE TO LIVE.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'VE ALSO LOST WHAT'S CHAINING YOU DOWN, RIGHT?


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LEAVE A MAIDEN IN DISTRESS.
FOR NOW, I'LL HELP YOU.

HUH?
FLOAT
SMEAR

sfx: disappear
HEY...
MY CLOTH-ES!
WH-
WHAT IS THIS...?
sfx: disappear
H-H-HEY... WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WAIT ...
IZUNA ?!
sfx: disappear
?
Poof
...

I'M SORRY. FOR MAKING YOU HELP ME WITH EVEN THIS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T USE YOUR HANDS.
TZAAAAA
Baths

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I WOULDN'T BE USEFUL AT ALL.
IF NOT FOR TIMES LIKE THESE,

EEK!
WHO'S THERE?!
CLICK
TZAAAAA

HUH?
...UM.
THERE'S NO ONE THERE .

SFX: SQUEAK

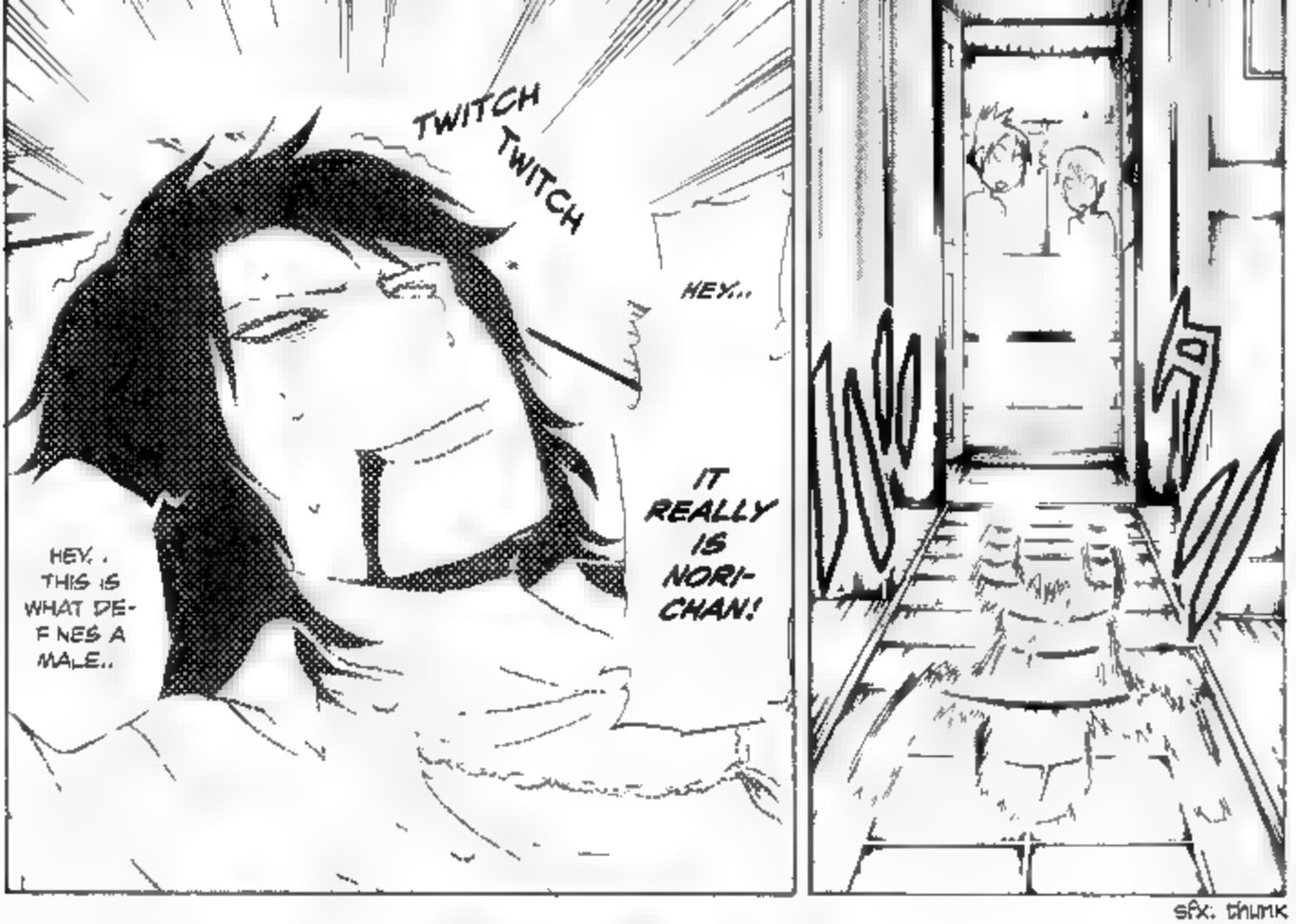
THAT'S HOT!!!
GAAAAAH!!
THERE REALLY IS SOME-THING THERE !!

sfx: thunk
GHOH!
AN INVIS-IBLE MAN?!

EH... SOME-THING BEHIND ME...
!
KAGU-RA-SAN, OUR BODIES ...

NORI-CHAN'S VOICE .?
TAP
TAP

sfx: disappear
DIS-AP-PEAR-ING?!
WE'RE ...


TWITCH
TWITCH
HEY..
IT REALLY IS NORI-CHAN!
HEY.. THIS IS WHAT DE-FINES A MALE..
SFX: thunk

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE CAN SEE OTHERS WHO HAVE DISAP-PEARED AS WELL?
TRANS-PARENTLY, BUT STILL..
WE'VE BECOME INVISIBLE AS WELL?

HUH?
WERE ARE YOU, KAGURA? ARE YOU OK?
KEN-CHAN!
AN ENEMY ATTACK ?!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE ?

THUD
WHOA!
SQUEEZE
*Second floor
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
sfx kerthunk
Sign: Texas Chai-
EEEEK!!
"SQUEEZE"

sfx. rumble rumble rumble
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE..?
sfx. stomp
FIRST, DON'T PEEP IN THE BATHS!!
A MAN'S DREAM!!
ARE THE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE DISAPPEARING ONE BY ONE?
I CAN SEE EVERYONE FROM HERE.
ME NEITHER.
WHY IS IT JUST MY CLOTHES?! I WON'T STAND FOR THIS!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THAT'S WEIRD.
IS IT AN ATTACK BY THE JUGONDOL..?
FROM HERE, I CAN ONLY SEE TWO
SHIZURU DOESN'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES
*Kensuke's point of view
AND YOU GUYS ARE ONLY THE FUDA.

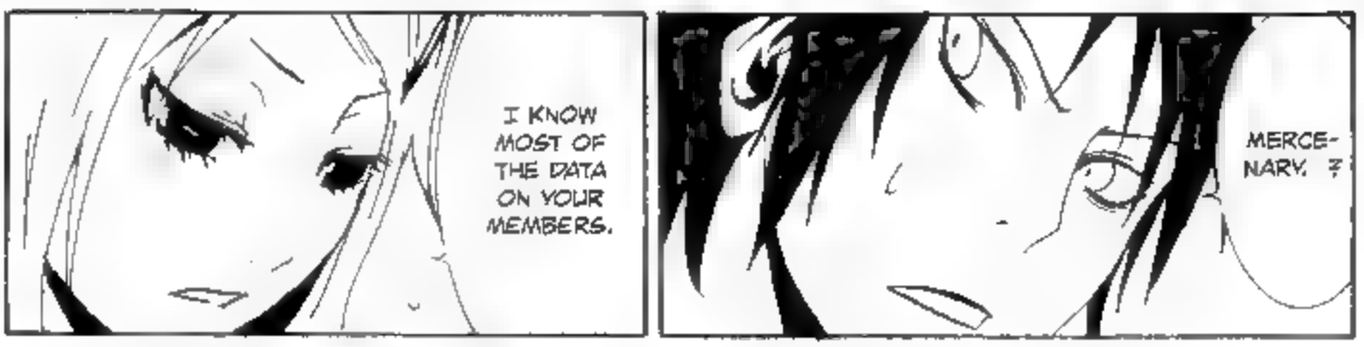
IT MIGHT BE MORE NATURAL TO THINK OF IT AS THE INVOLVEMENT OF A THIRD PARTY.
THAT'S RIGHT. . THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THEM APPROACHING.

RUSTLE
THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF THERE *BEING A TRAITOR* AMONG US.
YOU DIDN'T USE SOME STRANGE INSTRUMENT, DID YOU?
THE MOST SUSPICIOUS ONE IS YOU.

...

IWA-HATA-SAN...
AND YOU ALSO KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON INTERNALLY.
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF YOU HELD A GRUDGE...
YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO QUIT THE COUNTERMEASURE DEPARTMENT THREE YEARS AGO WHEN YOUR FIANCÉE DIED.

THERE'S NO WAY THERE'S SUCH A CONVENIENT INSTRU-MENT.
AFTER ALL, THAT'S SOMETHING A MERCENARY WOULD THINK OF.
KILL ME, TOO?
. IF SO, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?


I KNOW MOST OF THE DATA ON YOUR MEMBERS.
MERCE-NARY. ?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONNEC-TIONS NOR DUTIES, AREN'T YOU?
YOU WERE AN ARMY MAN WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE TER-RESTRIAL SELF-DEFENSE TROOPS OF JAPAN WHO WANDERED FROM JOB TO JOB WITHIN THE OVERSEAS MERCENARY COMPANY IN A FOR-EIGNER'S TROOP.
YOU WERE ONLY SCOUTED OUT BY THE COUN-TERMEASURE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE YOU COULD SENSE SPIRITS.

STOP! THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO FIGHT!
SO WHAT? I NEVER WAS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING... YOU WERE ALSO ONE FROM THE JUGONDOU.
ゴゴゴゴ

sfx. rumble rumble rumble

IN THE END, EVERYONE'S FROM THE OUTSIDE.
THIS IS A GATHERING OF OTHERS.
FROM THE START, THE ONLY TWO REMAIN NG ONES FROM THE ONMYOU FAMILIY ARE KAGURA AND KYOUKO.
JUST WHERE DO YOU GET THAT TRUST FROM?

This is no good Even with out this going on, we re in an emer- gency..
We re getting out of hand and losing our cool...
Think. If we split up, we ll only get killed one by one .
Just what is the enemy...
TAP
THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE... BEING "SPIRITED AWAY," WOULD IT?

sfx: rustle rustle

A SPIRIT THAT EVEN WE WITH HIGH SPIRITUAL CAPA-B LITIES CAN'T SEE .
THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING IN THIS HOUSE.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

DASH
HEY, WAIT UP! SHIZURU, YOU CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THAT...
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S DANGER-OUS OUTSIDE!
LET GO OF ME!
YOU DON'T EVEN NEED ME! LET GO!!
sfx: pull
EEK!
AAAARGH! YOU'RE SO TROUBLE-SOME! INJURED PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE SO RE-PETITIVE!!
sfx: stomp stomp
sfx: rustle rustle rustle
... UH ..
WHAT IS THAT?!
sfx: crackle

Translation note: In Japanese, "spirited away" is written with the characters for "being hidden by god." "Kakushigami" is characters reversed, namely being "god that does the hiding."

I CAUGHT HIM! IN THE HALLWAY!

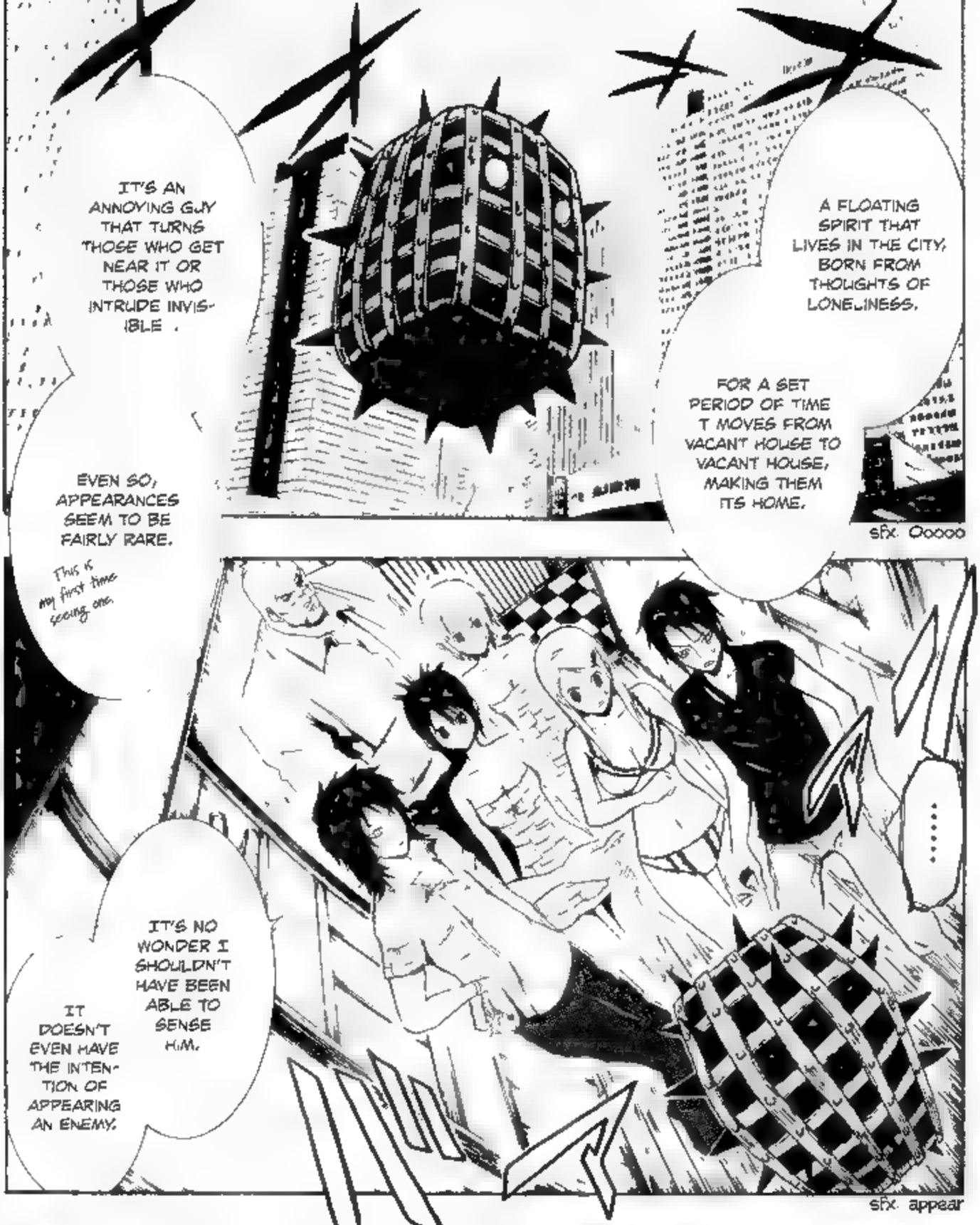
ONTA KAKUSHI-GAMI.

sfx boom

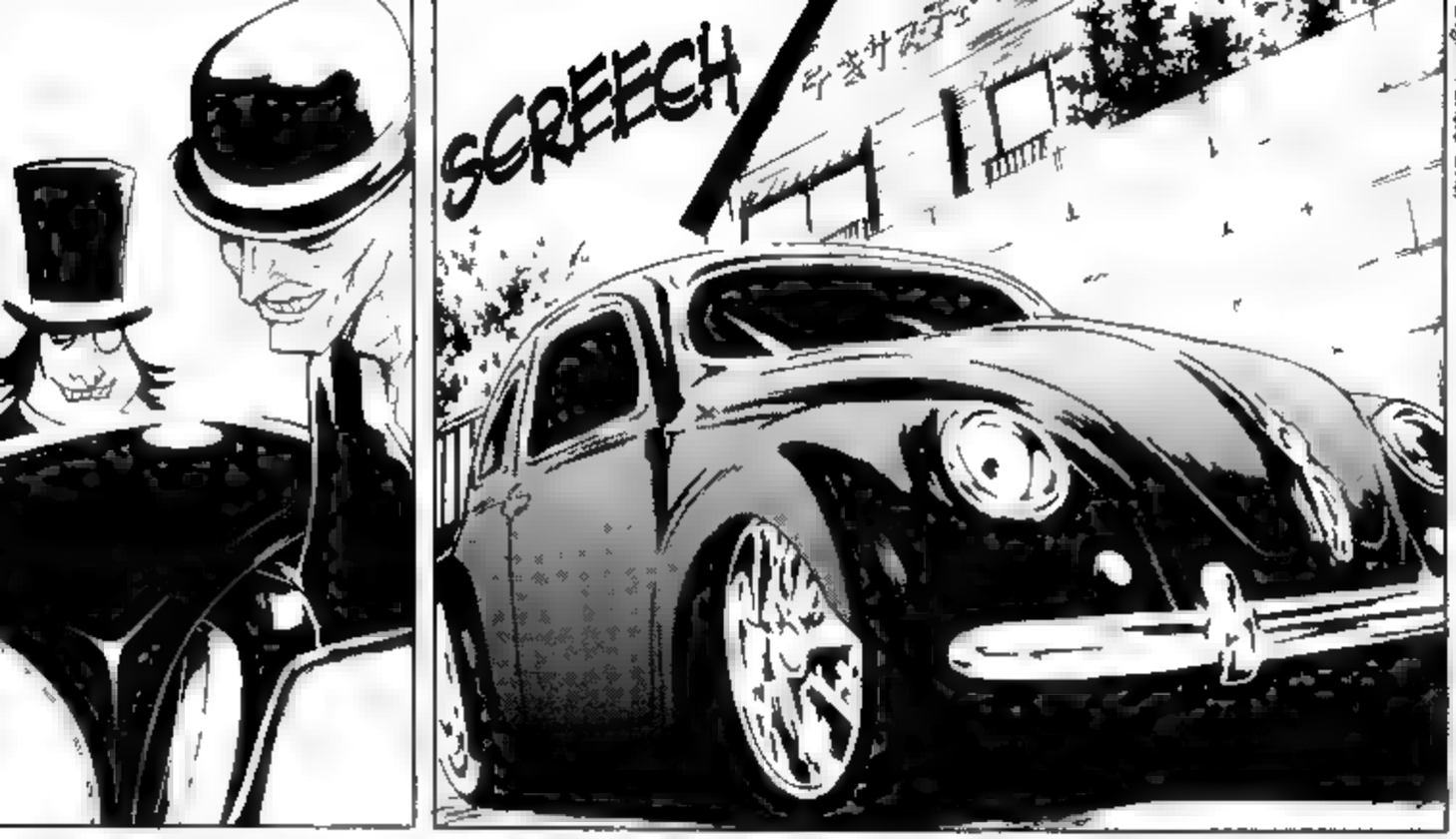
IT COULDN'T BE

THAT'S ...

sfx rustle rustle rustle rustle rustle


IT'S AN ANNOYING GUY THAT TURNS THOSE WHO GET NEAR IT OR THOSE WHO INTRUDE INVISIBLE .
A FLOATING SPIRIT THAT LIVES IN THE CITY, BORN FROM THOUGHTS OF LONELINESS.
FOR A SET PERIOD OF TIME T MOVES FROM VACANT HOUSE TO VACANT HOUSE, MAKING THEM ITS HOME.
sfx. Ooooo
EVEN SO, APPEARANCES SEEM TO BE FAIRLY RARE.
This is my first time seeing one.
IT'S NO WONDER I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SENSE HIM.
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE INTENTION OF APPEARING AN ENEMY.
.....
sfx. appear
STUPID CREATURE. HURRY UP AND EXORCISE IT.
IN THE REFUGE OF EXORCISTS?
IT'S PLANNING TO MAKE THIS PLACE ITS HOME?

YEP, BUT ONLY FOR A LIMITED AREA, I THINK.
IT MIGHT ONLY BE WITHIN THIS HOUSE.
WAIT. IF YOU TOUCH IT, YOU BECOME INVISIBLE?
...
efx. 0000
ABOUT THIS ABIL-ITY...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NORI-CHAN ...
?
VRRRR
I THINK IT'S WORTH TRYING OUT.
WE JUST SO HAPPEN TO HAVE GUESTS APPROACH-ING.
THIS GUY MIGHT BE OUR GOD OF LUCK...


SCREECH

sfx: creak
THERE ARE TRACES OF PEOPLE HERE
JUST IN CASE, LET'S GO TO THE SECOND FLOOR.

SFX: OOOOO

As long as we're careful about not making any sounds or being touched
They didn't notice us
can't we use this guy ?!
YES, SIR.
LET'S SEARCH IN NEARBY IMPORTANT PLACES.
THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR ..
IT REALLY IS ONLY WITHIN THE HOUSE.
I CAN SEE MYSELF ?
WAAH! DON'T YOU DARE GO OUT, YOU!!
PULL PULL
VRRR
SFX: rumble rumble rumble rumble
RUSTLE

PAT
AT ANY RATE, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE WOUNDS TO HEA...

It really did become a haunted house.

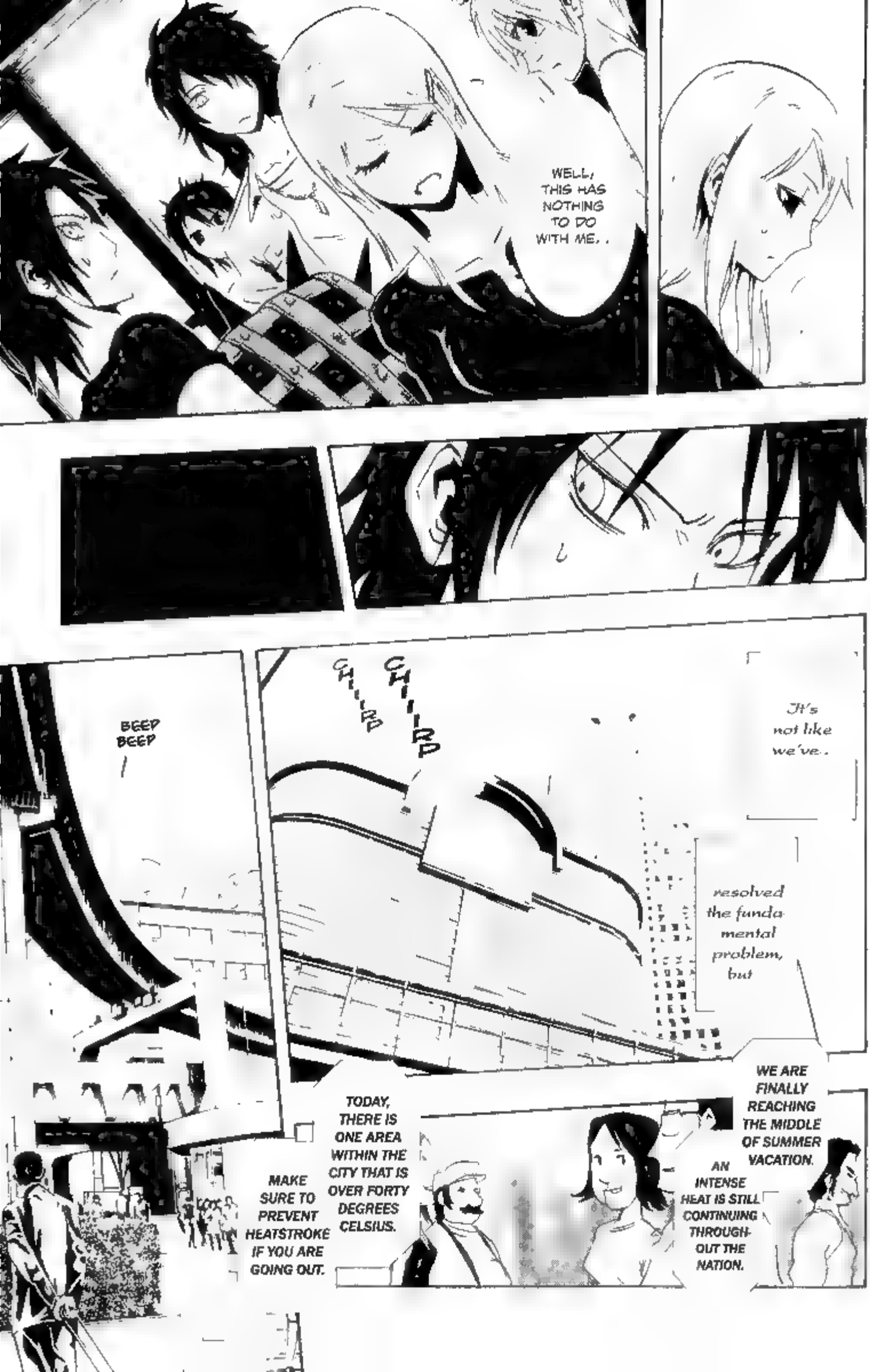
With this,
we'll be the invisible inhabitants of this place.

...

Well it suits us, but still

IWA-HATA-SAN.
NORI-CHAN'S NOT SOMEONE WHO BETRAYED US.
WELL, HE'S UNCO-OPERATIVE
BUT HE'S THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS PROTECTED US FROM THE SHADOWS UP UNTIL NOW. .
IWAHATA-SAN, YOU ALSO ALWAYS WOR-RIED ABOUT ME,
AND YOU'VE USED YOURSELF TO COVER FOR ME COUNTLESS TIMES.
I TRUST YOU FROM MY HEART,

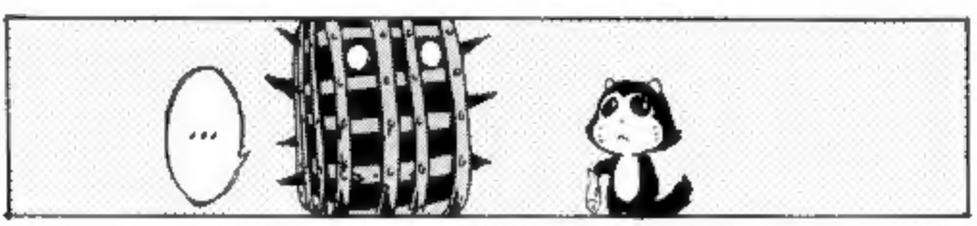
EVEN NOW THAT WE'VE LOST THE COUNTER-MEASURE DE-PARTMENT...
AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE,
SO.
AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T WIN WHAT WE SHOULD BE WINNING.
I UN-DER-STAND.
EVEN I WILL ACKNOWLEDGE HIS POWERS.
FOR NOW, I'LL TRUST YOU. IT'S FOR YOUR SAKES.
WHY, THANK YOU.


WELL, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. .
BEEP BEEP
CHIIRP CHIIRP
It's not like we've. .
resolved the funda mental problem, but
WE ARE FINALLY REACHING THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER VACATION.
AN INTENSE HEAT IS STILL CONTINUING THROUGH-OUT THE NATION.
TODAY, THERE IS ONE AREA WITHIN THE CITY THAT IS OVER FORTY DEGREES CELSIUS.
MAKE SURE TO PREVENT HEATSTROKE IF YOU ARE GOING OUT.

and
a safe place
to sleep.
Right
now, even
temporar-
ily,
we need
the trust
that comes
from those
who have
survived
because
our counter-
attack
Productive
emotion
has
yet
to come
Hm...

Productive emotion
JAPANESE SWORD ?
THIS MORNING, A MAN CARRYING A JAPANESE SWORD HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN THE TOKYO STATION.
CONTINUING ONTO THE NEXT NEWS,
sfx: boom
HE IS WEARING A FUNDOSHI AND IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF IDENTIFICATION, SO THE POLICE...
THE MAN CALLS HIMSELF MICHAEL KOHARA, A SWORDSMITH FROM AUSTRALIA.
マイケル小原 (58)

Fundoshi = sumo wrestler's ornamental apron



END

to be continued...

Enchained Spiritual Beast

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